



2013 Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students Criteria and Application Process

The Award

The University of Akron recognizes exceptional achievement in the engagement of teaching and learning with the Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students Award. This award will include an honorarium of \$1000 as well as \$1,000 for professional development activities.

General Criteria

The University of Akron recognizes that outstanding teaching can take many forms. The selection committee provides the following general criteria, which applicants and those writing letters on the applicants' behalf may wish to address:

- Dedication to first-year students' academic success and engagement in the campus community.
- Commitment to enhancing first-year instruction.
- Proficiency in communicating course material clearly and effectively to a wide range of first-year, UA students; and skill in promoting deep learning, including critical and creative thinking.
- Skill in promoting the appreciation of the subject matter and interest in future learning.
- Ability to adapt/develop new instructional solutions to the ever-changing learning needs and characteristics of first-year, UA students.
- Commitment to helping first-year, UA students discover and achieve their individual educational goals.

The Application Process

Individuals who are nominated for this Award should collect, prepare, organize, and submit a portfolio containing the following materials to the Office of Academic Affairs by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 1st, 2013. The materials should be contained in a 3-ring binder with labeled tabs for each of the requested sections.

1. A current and complete curriculum vitae
2. Supporting material (no more than 20 pages, single-sided), that includes:
 - a. A letter of nomination from the first-year course(s) department chair or school director or supervisor
 - b. A letter of application -- no more than four pages in length -- responding to the general criteria, highlighting applicant's level of engagement with and impact on first-year students, evidence of student learning, and accomplishments that directly relate to the teaching of first-year courses
 - c. Student/colleague testimonials and letters of support – no more than 5, total – that focus on applicant's first-year course(s) at UA
 - d. A complete listing of all first year courses taught at UA
 - e. A summary of the applicant's student evaluations from first-year courses taught at UA– limit materials to within previous 3 years
 - f. Other forms of evidence or artifacts collected within the past 3 years, which support the application such as descriptions of student projects or assignments, grading rubrics, evidence of campus involvement, student mentoring, etc.

Please Submit Nominations by Thursday, March 1, 2013 to:

**Exemplary University Service Awards Committee
Office of Academic Affairs
Buchtel Hall 102
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-4703**