

THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



2015 Outstanding Teacher Award *Criteria and Application Process*

THE AWARD

The University of Akron will recognize outstanding achievement in teaching by members of our faculty with the University *Outstanding Teacher Award*. To provide encouragement and incentive for continued excellence in teaching, the 2015 award will include a \$1,500 honorarium.

ELIGIBILITY

All full-time University of Akron faculty members currently teaching and employed by the University for at least five years are eligible for consideration for an *Outstanding Teacher Award*. This award requires documented evidence of teaching excellence, as reflected in its impact on student learning and success.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Individuals, who are nominated by their department 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 Monday, March 2, 2015. 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 department chair or school director or supervisor (no more than three pages long, double-spaced)
 - b. A letter of application -- no more than 4 pages in length -- responding to the general criteria, highlighting applicant's level of engagement with **verified** impact on students, through teaching
 - c. Student/colleague testimonials and letters of support -- no more than 5, total -- that focus on applicant's course(s) at UA
 - d. A summary of the applicant's student evaluations from courses taught at UA-- limit materials to within previous three years
 - e. Other forms of **verifiable** evidence or artifacts collected within the past three years, which support the application such as descriptions of student projects or assignments with which the nominee has been **substantially** involved, grading rubrics, evidence of campus involvement, or student mentoring

GENERAL CRITERIA

Excellence in teaching and scholarship can take many forms. Those submitting materials may want to consider the following perspectives:

An Outstanding University of Akron Teacher must demonstrate exceptional:

- **Knowledge/Preparation** – Deep and comprehensive knowledge of his/her discipline or field and a commitment to remaining current in course-related preparation
- **Instructional Design Skills** – Skill in defining appropriate learning goals, outcomes, and standards; and in developing challenging assignments and assessments consistent with those course goals and outcomes
- **Teaching Skills** – Skill in communicating course material clearly and effectively to a wide range of UA students; and skill in promoting deep learning (not just rote memorization), including critical and creative thinking
- **Motivational Skills** – Skill in promoting appreciation of the subject matter and interest in further learning
- **Creativity** – Ability to adapt/develop new instructional solutions to the ever-changing learning needs and characteristics of UA students
- **Learner-Centeredness** – Skill in helping UA students discover and achieve their individual educational goals

*Submit Nominations by Monday, March 2, 2015 to: Outstanding Teacher Award Committee,
Office of Academic Affairs, attention Laurel Rooks*