

THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



2015 Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students Award *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 \$1,500.

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 first-year course(s) 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 first-year students
 - 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 three years
 - f. 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 can take many forms. Those submitting materials may want to consider the following perspectives:

An Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students must demonstrate exceptional:

- **Dedication** to first-year students' academic success and engagement in the campus community
- **Commitment** to enhancing first-year instruction and in helping first-year, UA students discover and achieve their individual educational goals
- **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

Submit Nominations by Monday, March 2, 2015 to: Outstanding Teacher/Mentor of First-Year Students Award Committee, Office of Academic Affairs, attention Laurel Rooks