Distinguished Mentor Award

Introduction:

The Office of the Provost, in conjunction with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity, is pleased to present the Distinguished Mentor Award to recognize the considerable efforts and accomplishments of full-time faculty who serve as effective mentors. Mentoring is a sustained partnership that is necessarily multifaceted and is enhanced by mutual respect and concern. Far from being just an advisor, a mentor serves as teacher, advocate, sponsor, and role model.

Mentor*:

1. Creates a supportive environment for research, scholarly, and creative work.
2. Promotes successful completion of students’ research, scholarly or creative work.
3. Commits to advancing students’ long-term professional development - throughout their journey from student to professional.
4. Ensures that students master the content and skills of their discipline, including the ability to present that content to professional and non-professional audiences. Evidence of such skills will be found in publications in disciplinary research journals or presentations at research or creative conferences.
5. Maintains accessibility by providing consistently open lines of communication between the mentor and student.
6. Directs and connects students to resources necessary to take full advantage of academic and professional opportunities and enables students by helping them to develop their own local and national networks.

Eligibility Guidelines:

1. Nominees must be a full-time faculty member at Murray State University.
   a. A full-time faculty member is defined as one who holds academic rank and who is directly engaged in instruction, research, and service.
2. Faculty, staff, and students may submit nominations. Only one nomination is needed to place a candidate’s name in nomination.
3. Awardees will be eligible for another award three years after a previous award.

Nomination Process:

1. Persons wishing to nominate a faculty member for this award should submit the following information to the Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity Office:
   a. Full name of nominee
   b. Nominee’s current position
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c. Brief justification of why the nominee deserves the award (up to two pages, single-spaced type)
d. Name and signature of nominator

2. At the close of the nomination period, each nominee will be requested to provide (1) a current resume that provides evidence of mentoring activities (if a mentored activity includes a student name or if a publication, presentation, performance, or exhibit includes a student author or co-author, please highlight the student name), (2) a brief overview of the faculty member’s mentoring activities and/or mentoring philosophy (limited to three pages, single spaced), and (3) one additional supporting letter (the nominator’s letter will also be used in the overall evaluation).

Review Committee:

Members of the Review Committee will be appointed by the Provost, with the chair of the Committee coming from the URSA Advisory Board. Members shall be appointed to three year terms. Past recipients of the Distinguished Mentor Award shall be appointed to the Review Committee for three year terms.

Evaluation Criteria:

The Review Committee will evaluate applications on the following basis:

1. Significance, recognition and/or application of the research, scholarly, or creative work as evidenced by publications, presentations, performances, and exhibits, and
2. Impact on students’ educations, careers, and/or lives.

Award:

1. Presentation of the Distinguished Mentor Award will be made at the Faculty Banquet. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque and a $1000.
2. Appropriate acknowledgement in University media and forums, including participation in Commencement exercises.
3. Awardees name added to a permanent plaque (with list of prior awardees) displayed in the Office of the Provost.
4. The award recipient will give an oral presentation on his/her work, including a description of student involvement, at Scholars Week.

* Adapted from Duke University’s Distinguished Mentor Award