

Distinguished Teaching Award

Deadline for Receipt of Nominations: April 1, 2009

An Invitation to Nominate

Each year Western Michigan University recognizes outstanding teaching by awarding one or more Distinguished Teaching Awards. The Selection Committee invites you to nominate a faculty member you believe should be considered for this award.

Eligibility

Any full-time WMU faculty member teaching undergraduate or graduate students is eligible for the Distinguished Teaching Award; however, the award may be given only once in a career, and winners of the former Alumni Teaching Excellence Award are not eligible.

Nature of the Award

- A minimum of one and not more than three faculty members per year will be given the Distinguished Teaching Award.
- Each recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award will receive a recognition plaque, a one-time cash prize of \$2,000, and a one-time base salary increase of \$2,000 effective at the beginning of the year after receipt of the award.
- The DTA winner(s) will be announced during the Academic Celebration scheduled on the first Thursday in the fall semester.
- The DTA winner(s) will be acknowledged at the December Graduation and named in the commencement program booklet.

Criteria

Outstanding teaching is not fixed in form or venue and is not easily assessed. Whether instruction takes place in lecture courses, seminars, or laboratories or whether it is pitched at introductory or advanced levels, exceptional pedagogy is marked by the active, critical role of the instructor and mentor whose demanding presence fosters critical thinking and inspires students to engage the quest for knowledge as a value in itself and as a craft. The selection of outstanding teachers depends on the exercise of flexible judgment.

Nominating Procedures

- Nominations will come from students, alumni, past recipients, and faculty eligible for the award. No self nominations or nominations from administrators will be accepted.
- In the nominating letter, describe in your own words, why you feel this particular faculty member should receive the award. Be as specific as possible about the criteria you are using to measure distinguished teaching. The Selection Committee would like to know exactly why you see this teacher as deserving of high honor. All letters are confidential.
- Explain your current relationship to WMU and include your name and signature, as well as your mailing address, phone number, and email address. The Selection Committee may want to contact you for more information.

- Send the letter of nomination to: Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, Office of the Provost, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5204.
- The deadline for nominations is April 1st.
- Nomination letters may also be submitted online:
<http://www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements/pdf/nomination.html>

Selection Process

- Every teaching college will be represented on the Selection Committee. Members will be named by the Provost and will consist of past DTA recipients where possible.
- The committee will make selections based on information given in the letters of nomination.
- All nomination letters will be kept in files in the Provost's Office and will be used by the Selection Committee in subsequent years to assess distinguished teaching over time.
- The Selection Committee will meet in April and reach a decision in May of the award year.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Katherine Joslin (katherine.joslin@wmich.edu), Chair of the Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee.