The Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching

The Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching is given to recognize outstanding teaching by faculty in Washington State University's UCORE program. Honoring Richard Law’s service to the university as Director of General Education from 1990 to 2009, the award values the important role played by general education faculty across the university in helping undergraduates attain the WSU Learning Goals and Outcomes, especially outside their major area of study. Recognizing that effective leaders in all areas need to draw on a breadth of knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplinary fields, faculty receiving this award inspire curiosity and understanding of an area of study. Their classes encourage development of the lifelong learning skills of integrating and synthesizing concepts in order to solve real problems.

This award is open to all instructors of record (instructors and clinical faculty as well as tenure-track faculty) on all WSU campuses whose teaching has included at least one UCORE class in the past three years (2015-16 through 2017-18); gaps due to sabbatical leaves do not affect eligibility.

Criteria

Nomination materials must speak to a strong commitment to the values of general education, including the following qualities of instruction:

1. Clear focus on student development and enhancement of the skills embedded in the WSU Learning Goals and Outcomes in courses taught, especially for nonmajors.
2. Emphasis on a student-centered classroom, with components that actively engage students with course materials.
3. Excellent rapport with and mentoring of students, evidencing a robust commitment to kindling their desire for lifelong learning.
4. Evidence of desire to become a more effective instructor through use of ongoing classroom assessment and/or professional development.
5. Strong student evaluations and program-level evaluations (when available) of UCORE course(s) taught.

A strong nomination may also include:

6. Evidence of outstanding work with UCORE learning outcomes assessment projects/program for the betterment of WSU undergraduate education (for example, leadership in aligning one or more courses to meet the learning goals of a UCORE designation, or departmental work with developing learning outcomes or outcomes assessment).
7. Demonstrated ability to be an effective teacher in UCORE classes with large enrollment.
8. Demonstrated ability to effectively work with the special needs of students

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transitioning into university work (100-level courses) or professional situations (capstones).

9. Effective use of technology in the curriculum of the course.

Application/Nomination Process

All eligible instructors are welcome to apply; nominations may also be made on behalf of eligible faculty members provided the full set of application materials is included. Materials are due by 5:00 p.m. Mon., March 5, 2018 to Jeannie Holt at her email address: jmholt@wsu.edu. They must include:

1. A cover sheet with applicant’s contact information including name, email address, campus phone, alternate phone, and campus zip.
2. A statement from the faculty member that addresses the criteria above (3 pages maximum).
3. A one-page summary of course evaluations from UCORE courses in the past three years, plus a selection of comments (10 maximum).
4. Syllabi from UCORE courses taught by applicant in the past three years (3 syllabi maximum).
5. Three letters of recommendation, which could include letters from colleagues, alumni, or community partners. Ideally at least one letter should be from a former student. THESE LETTERS OF SUPPORT MUST BE EMAILED BY EACH WRITER DIRECTLY TO jmholt@wsu.edu BY THE MARCH 5, 2018 DEADLINE; PLEASE INCLUDE THE APPLICANT’S NAME AND “THE LAW AWARD” IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.

Questions

Any questions about the Law Award or the application process should be directed to Karen Weathermon at kweathermon@wsu.edu or Jeannie Holt at jmholt@wsu.edu.

Deadline

All materials are due by 5:00 p.m. Mon., March 5, 2018 to Jeannie Holt at her email address: jmholt@wsu.edu