

# Centennial Professorship Award

## Award Background

In 1984, the Associated Students of Arizona State University (ASASU) had a vision. They sought to recognize, encourage, and award ASU junior faculty for their outstanding leadership and instruction, both within and beyond the classroom. The need to attract and retain the highest-quality leaders and teachers to our faculty was the catalyst for establishing the Associated Students Centennial Endowment Fund, which enabled the creation of the Centennial Professorship Award.

By acknowledging and promoting these qualities of academic excellence and community service, and embeddedness in our existing junior faculty, the Centennial Professorship program seeks to encourage all faculty members to continue their innovative educational practices both in and outside the classroom.

The Centennial Professorship Award is very prestigious, and recipients are recognized and announced in April on the GSG & USG website, GRAD Newsletter, and through a Press Release to [ASU Insight](#).

## What is the award?

The Centennial Professorship Award recognizes junior faculty on all ASU campuses who are engaged in scholarship, emerging leadership, dedication to community service, and the enrichment of students' academic experience.

## Who is eligible?

Any junior faculty who has made significant contributions to the educational development of ASU students through outstanding instruction both in and out of the classroom, and is

- (1) engaged in scholarship, in and out of the classroom setting, and who is dedicated to sharing knowledge and skill with the wider community.
- (2) esteemed by students as an outstanding teacher due to preparedness and organization of the classes he or she teaches, and due to the quality learning environment that this instructor creates through the use of innovative teaching strategies.
- (3) known for enthusiastically challenging, motivating, and inspiring students toward academic excellence, but at the same time, succeeds in making difficult material understandable to students.
- (4) able to enjoy and recognize the importance of working with students and enhancing their education out of the classroom, leading them to potential careers, graduate programs, or other opportunities when appropriate.
- (5) willing to use the stipend to benefit students through (but not limited to) the betterment of the technology used in instruction or lab, or hiring student assistants.

## Who can nominate a Professor?

Any member of the Arizona State University (including faculty, staff, or student body) may submit a single nomination.

## What is the prize?

Each year, three winners are awarded **a \$5000 stipend and \$5000** to support classroom instruction and teaching innovation. For example, this could include upgrading classroom technology or hiring a teaching assistant. Besides, they will receive cross-campus recognition and be honored at the Annual Awards Ceremony in the spring.

## What's the process?

The process is very simple and comprises three steps: Nomination, Application, and Decisions.

### 1. **Nomination: March 01 - March 22, 2026**

- ASU faculty, staff, and students fill out a nomination form (link) in which they will provide a statement that (1) describes how your nominee has contributed to the education of ASU students both within and beyond the classroom, and (2) provides specific examples demonstrating the impact on either the students or the academic/local community.
- By the end of this period, nominees will be notified by email and invited to complete an online application.

### 2. **Application: March 23- April 03, 2026**

- Applicants are supposed to send all required documents Packet to [asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com](mailto:asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com). only. In this application packet, nominees should include the following documents: a personal statement of no more than 5 pages and a curriculum vitae (see required documents below).

### 3. **Decisions: April 13, 2026**

- The Awards Committee evaluates all materials and reaches final decisions based on both the online applications and the nomination statements.
- GSG promptly notifies the winners, who then receive their prize and are invited to the GSG Awards Ceremony, where they are bestowed with wall plaques in recognition of their contributions to both the ASU students and the academic/local communities.

*\*Note: Final announcement date of winners may change according to circumstances.*

## Application and Required Documents

All candidates will be invited to complete an online application along with the following required documents:

- (1) A **Personal Statement** (no longer than 5 pages) that addresses the applicant's:
  - teaching philosophy;
  - goals for continued teaching development and innovation;

- contributions to the education of students both in and out of the classroom;
- involvement with community service (academic/scientific and local);
- description of intended uses of the award;

(2) A **Curriculum Vitae** highlighting the applicant's

- relevant teaching activities and professional/academic development;
- accomplishments and contributions in the field of study;
- efforts to both mentor ASU students beyond the classroom, and serve in leadership roles in the community (academic/local) that potentially benefit them;

### **Dates and Deadlines**

- **Nomination Period:** March 1 - March 22, 2026
- **Application period:** March 23- April 3 , 2026
- **Evaluation period:** April 3-April 10, 2026
- **Winners announced:** April 13, 2026

### **Administration**

The Centennial Professorship Award program is run by the GSG Office of Professional Development, overseen by the Vice President of Professional Development and the Director of Awards in collaboration with the Associated Students of Arizona State University.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions, please contact GSG's Awards Team ([asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com](mailto:asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com)).

# CENTENNIAL PROFESSORSHIP AWARD



Celebrating Junior Faculty Excellence at ASU

## ABOUT THE AWARD

Established in 1984, the Centennial Professorship Award was created by ASASU to recognize and reward junior faculty for exceptional leadership and instruction. The initiative utilized the Centennial Endowment Fund to help ASU attract and retain top-tier educators who excel both inside and outside the classroom.

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Junior Faculty:** Open to junior faculty who have made significant contributions to the educational development of ASU students.
- **Teaching & Scholarship:** Actively engaged in scholarship and dedicated to sharing knowledge both inside and outside the classroom.
- **Outstanding Instruction:** Esteemed by students for preparedness, organization, and creating an innovative, high-quality learning environment.
- **Student Impact:** Inspires, motivates, and challenges students while making complex material understandable and supporting their academic and career growth.
- **Student-Focused Use of Funds:** Willing to use the stipend to directly benefit students, such as improving instructional technology or hiring student assistants.

## APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

**Personal Statement** (no longer than 5 pages)

- teaching philosophy;
- goals for continued teaching development and innovation;
- contributions to the education of students both in and out of the classroom;
- involvement with community service (academic/scientific and local);
- description of intended uses of the award;

## Prize

- **\$5000** Stipend
- **\$5000** for supporting classroom instruction and teaching innovation

## For Questions

If you have questions, please contact GSG's Awards Team ([asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com](mailto:asu.gsg.awards@gmail.com)).

## KEY DATES

- Nomination Period: March 1 - March 22, 2026
- Application period: March 22- April 3, 2026
- Evaluation period: April 3-April 10, 2026
- Winners announced: April 13, 2026

## MORE INFO:



## NOMINATION LINK:

