UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

Faculty Distinguished Research Award

This award was established in the spring of 2000 to recognize sustained high quality research and/or artistic productivity of a UMM faculty member over the course of a career. The six initial recipients were Professors James Cotter (Geology), Harold Hinds (History), Jim Carlson (Music), Dwight Purdy (English), Dave Hoppe (Biology), and Eric Klinger (Psychology).

To determine future awardees, a selection committee of invited faculty members will be formed by the Dean's office after the nominees' names are put forward. The committee will include five UMN Morris faculty members at the rank of associate or full professor who, when feasible, represent all four divisions. Composition of the committee is predicated on the desire to maintain the high standard for the award and to represent the campus diversity. At least two of the committee members should be past Distinguished Research Award winners. The committee makeup must avoid conflicts of interest, so people who have been nominated and those who have nominated faculty members cannot serve on the committee.

The committee keeps the nominations confidential; only the name of the winner is announced. However, the committee may consult experts in the nominees' fields, both on campus and off-campus, and share the nomination materials with them as needed. At the end of its discussion the selection committee sends the name of the winner, as well as the brief justification of their decision, to the Dean's office. The Dean and Division Chairs review the decision and may seek additional information before finalizing the award.

Criteria

- Any full-time (66 % or greater) UMN Morris faculty member holding the rank of associate or full professor whose career has included a substantial period of teaching at an undergraduate institution is eligible.
- The award will be granted for a high level of sustained research, scholarly, and/or artistic productivity over the course of a career, where this level is judged relative to the ordinary professional performance typical among those meeting the eligibility criterion stated above.
- The specific forms, quality, and quantity of a nominee's accomplishments will be judged in light of the traditions or norms of the candidate's discipline.
- A wide variety of scholarly and/or artistic accomplishments and activities are appropriate for consideration, as given in the following non-exclusive list:
    - Scholarly publications
    - Creative and artistic productions and performances
    - Creation of products, techniques, and pedagogical tools stemming from the candidate's research or creative activity
    - Juried awards
    - Honors or awards for best article, book, production, performance, etc.
    - Scope of reputation (local, national, international)
    - Quantity and quality of work
    - Impact on one's field
    - Significant involvement of students in research, publication, and performances/productions
    - Invited addresses, performances, demonstrations to classes, the media, professional associations, etc.
    - Service as evaluator of others' professional productions, performances, or scholarship

- Elections and/or appointment to distinguished and key positions in one's research area, e.g. service on award committee/jury, as journal editor or referee, as program or exhibition chair, or as organizer of conference or colloquium
- Performance, exhibition, or replication of one's artistic or scholarly work
- The quality and number of citations or any other such form of recognition of one's work
- Recognition through funding of one's work, both from sources within and from outside the University
- Having one's work incorporated into a major public or private collection
- Selection to participate in prestigious think tanks, master workshops, highly selective competitions, etc.
- Being commissioned to write or produce an original work

Nominating and Selecting Award Recipients

Annual nominations for the award may be made by anyone, including the candidate. There are two important dates for this award, one usually at the end of the fall semester, and the other in the early part of the spring semester. Advance notice of intent to nominate (made by Google form) is necessary so that Division Chairs can ensure the nominee agrees to the nomination and so the DCs can assist with forming the review committee. The candidate and the nominator will work together to assemble the dossier, which should be submitted to the Dean's office (again by Google form and in a combined pdf) usually early in the spring semester. **For 2026-27, the timeline is as follows:**

- Notice of intent to nominate due by December 9, 2026 (nominators are strongly encouraged to check with the potential nominee in advance).
- Nomination dossiers due February 10, 2027.
- Dossier review in the next two weeks, if at all possible.

The Dossier

The candidate's dossier should contain the following items, combined into a single pdf and uploaded into this Google form:*

1. A **nominating statement** of no more than four pages using the provided template and presenting the full case for the nomination and summarizing the dossier. This statement forms the basis for the nomination and is extremely important for the review process. The statement should describe the nominee's qualifications with specific reference to the criteria listed in these guidelines.
2. A **personal statement** by the candidate of no more than 1200 words using the provided template and describing the accomplishments of and the philosophy behind his/her research and/or artistic productivity over the course of his/her career.
3. Supporting documentation of no more than ten items including but not limited to such things as copies of published articles, books, photographs, examples of creative work, videos, etc.
4. The candidate's current **curriculum vitae**.
5. **At least three and no more than five supporting letters** from faculty colleagues and experts in the candidate's field, citing specific examples in support of the case. At least two of such letters must be from experts outside of UMN Morris. The letters are valid for three years.

**Excess materials will not be considered.*

The Award

The Faculty Distinguished Research Award will consist of a single course replacement if feasible, or a cash award of $2000 plus $500 to the discipline of the awardee, or an equivalent package to be negotiated with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean. An individual may win this award only once.