

## Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) is to recognize excellence in teaching in Virginia's Community Colleges.

**The Award:** The Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded annually to one teaching faculty member in the VCCS who distinctly represents the teaching excellence found at a VCCS college. The award provides the recipient with a **VCCS stole and \$5,000**. One nomination per campus will be accepted.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Full-time teaching faculty with unrestricted rank and salary proposals.
- Minimum of five years of full-time VCCS service, with at least 75% of the workload dedicated to teaching during that time.
- Recommended by the president of the college

### Criteria for the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

The Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) recognizes faculty who have demonstrated superior accomplishment across the full spectrum of academic scholarship: Teaching, Discovery, Knowledge Integration, and Service.

A nominee's record must provide clear and compelling evidence demonstrating the nature, level, and degree of their:

1. **Involvement/Participation**
2. **Effectiveness/Success**
3. **Impact/Achievement**
4. **Recognition/Acknowledgement**

This evidence must be present in all four areas of scholarship outlined below.

**1. Teaching:** A record of superior accomplishment in the scholarship of Teaching must contain clear and compelling evidence related to:

- **Instruction:** A consistently superior record of andragogical excellence in the classroom, lab, or clinical setting.
- **Student Development and Learning:** A demonstrated commitment to promoting the success of students from all backgrounds, including measurable evidence of student growth and achievement.

**2. Discovery:** A record of superior accomplishment in the scholarship of Discovery must contain clear and compelling evidence related to:

- **Scholarly Works:** Significant output of objective, subjective, and/or artistic works (e.g., publications, grants, patents, performances, exhibitions).
- **Scholarly Activities:** Demonstrated active engagement in generating new knowledge and research within the discipline.

**3. Knowledge Integration:** A record of superior accomplishment in the scholarship of Knowledge Integration must contain clear and compelling evidence related to:

- **Curricular Development:** Excellence in developing innovative curricula, particularly those that place the nominee's discipline in larger interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary contexts.
- **Meaningful Connections:** Demonstrated ability to build substantive and meaningful connections between the nominee's research/discovery efforts and their teaching practices.

**4. Service:** A record of superior accomplishment in the scholarship of Service must contain clear and compelling evidence related to the application of knowledge and expertise in the broader contexts of:

- **Institution:** Significant and effective service to the college (e.g., committee work, administrative roles, mentoring).
- **Community/Society:** The application of disciplinary expertise to benefit the local, national, or global community.
- **Professional Service:** Leadership and participation in professional organizations, editorial roles, or peer review.

### **Application Process**

Applicants for the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence must complete the [Online Application form](#), which includes the following items:

**1. Summary of Accomplishments** (Four-page maximum): The major highlights of the nominee's record of accomplishment must be identified and briefly described in a Summary. This summary must directly address the nomination criteria. The amount of space/attention given to each area of scholarship (teaching, discovery, knowledge integration and service) should be reflective of his/her employment responsibilities at the college. The Summary may be prepared using bulleted sections; complete sentences are not required. Third-person perspective is suggested.

**2. Personal Statement** (Two-page maximum): The nominee must prepare a personal statement addressing: the distribution of his/her faculty responsibilities across Boyer's four areas of scholarship; his/her educational philosophy; and any other information deemed relevant by the nominee. Restating accomplishments discussed in the Summary section should be avoided as much as possible. It is suggested that the personal statement be presented as a first-person narrative in complete sentences.

**3. Letters of Support – excerpted** (Two-page maximum): Excerpts of support letters from supervisors (president, CAO, dean, dept. chair), colleagues (institutional and/or disciplinary), students (former and/or current), and community leaders or members must be included. (Two-page maximum; 250-word maximum for each excerpt)

### **4. Completed [Signature Sheet](#)**

Additional materials are not accepted. It is strongly recommended that all parts of the application reflect the four criteria listed above. Be sure to check with your college to make sure you are complying with any internal deadlines or processes.

**Selection Committee:** Selection of the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence recipient is made by a committee composed of one college president, one academic vice president, two deans (one academic and one student services), three faculty members, and one student utilizing the following [rubric](#).

**Submission Deadline:** **December 16, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Award Notification:** The award recipient and their college president will be notified confidentially prior to the public announcement during the Awards program at the annual New Horizons conference in April 2026.