



MCB Mentorship Award

Nomination Guidelines • Spring 2026

The goal of this award is to recognize individuals within the MCB community who have provided outstanding mentorship to others. In doing so, we hope to highlight the value that the MCB department puts on thoughtful mentorship and the impact mentorship can have on individual growth and the department as a whole.

Nominations are being accepted from **NOW** until **Sunday, March 29th at 11:59 pm**.

The short nomination form -- **500 words or less** -- can be completed using this [link](#).

Between one and three candidates will be awarded a cash prize at **MCB's Community Forum on April 17th** and in the MCB news channels.

We eagerly welcome nominations for impactful mentorship in any capacity. Generally, mentorship is a relationship in which one person (the mentor) utilizes their expertise in a certain area to guide another (the mentee) towards accomplishing goals that are defined by the mentee's own aspirations. The mentor should provide a safe space for the mentee to share their goals and to troubleshoot challenges that arise along the way to reaching those goals. Some examples of mentorship that may exist within the department include but are not limited to:

- **Research mentorship** (including development of technical and/or communication skills)
- **Academic mentorship** (e.g., thoughtful teaching, teaching development for students, or concentration advising)
- **Workplace mentorship** (e.g., skill building, support transitioning to a new role)
- **Career mentorship** (e.g., application support, career advising)

Who can nominate?

- Nominations may be submitted by anyone. Undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, administrative or research staff, or faculty from any department.
- Co-nominations are welcome. You may either submit the form separately (with different nomination statements) or submit one co-written nomination statement. In either case, the nominee will be judged on the entirety of the supporting materials.

Who can be nominated?

- Nominees may hold any position within the MCB department but must be affiliated with the department in some way. Undergraduates in an MCB-affiliated concentration (MCB, CPB, Neuro), graduate students in an MCB program or MCB staff or faculty may be nominated. A directory of MCB community members can be found [here](#).

A mentor could be....

- a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or a research staff member who advises and trains a new member of the lab
- a section teaching fellow who thoughtfully offers insight into post-grad plans or finding undergraduate research opportunities
- a head teaching fellow or instructor who supports a new teaching fellow in the classroom
- an administrator who has facilitated the onboarding of a new staff member in the department

The nomination statement should be 500 words or less

It should explain how the nominee has demonstrated outstanding mentorship and positively benefited you and/or others in a mentee position. Please also describe the nature of the mentorship (academic, research, career, etc.).

Criteria that will be used to judge the nomination statements include:

- One-on-one nature of mentoring relationship (nominee may have multiple mentees, but the impact should be individual)
- Impact on mentee(s)
- Evidence of sustained relationship
- Whether the mentorship goes above and beyond the nominee's job responsibilities

We encourage you to provide specific examples wherever possible.

We highly encourage you to nominate an influential mentor from your MCB experience. We are excited about this opportunity to recognize the importance and value of mentorship.

Questions? Please email MCB_CTF@fas.harvard.edu