



CALS Excellence in Teaching Awards

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will recognize excellence in teaching with up to five awards presented at the Spring CALS/MAFES Awards Luncheon. Awards may be made in the following categories: lower division award, upper division award, graduate teaching award, and new faculty award. An overall award winner will be selected from the winners in the above four categories. The four award winners will receive a plaque and \$1,000 with the overall award winner receiving a plaque and \$2,000. The overall winner will also be submitted to the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture for its teaching award of merit.

Eligibility

1. Nominees should have a 20 percent or greater teaching appointment. Full time CALS faculty who are committed to teaching are eligible for this award.
2. Previous recipients of any division or overall CALS Excellence in Teaching Awards are ineligible for 3 years after receiving previous awards.
3. Nominees may only be nominated for an award in one category.
 - a. **lower division award** - for excellence in teaching at the freshman and sophomore levels
 - b. **upper division award** - for excellence in teaching at the junior and senior levels
 - c. **graduate teaching award** - for excellence in teaching at the graduate level
 - d. **new faculty award** - for excellence in teaching by new faculty who have completed at least one year, but no more than four years of teaching

Nomination Process

1. Applications should be submitted to nominations@cals.msstate.edu.
2. The nomination packet should include the following:
 - a. A completed nomination form;
 - b. A letter of nomination (any faculty member may nominate eligible faculty);
 - c. A maximum five page curriculum vitae;
 - d. Class ratings/evaluations for the last two years (provide departmental averages for comparison if available);
 - e. Four letters of support and a letter of endorsement from the department head;
 - f. A statement by the nominee of his/her teaching philosophy (limited to one page);
 - g. Optional supporting material such as class syllabi.



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Selection Process

Members of the CALS Excellence in Teaching Committee will review the nomination packages. Using information supplied by the nominees, members of the CALS Excellence in Teaching Committee score each nominee for the criteria listed below. Average scores for each of these criteria will be used in the final evaluation. The applicant with the highest scores will be the award recipient.

Evidence of exemplary teaching based on the following criteria:

1. Teacher's enthusiasm and ability to stimulate interest in the course and its subject matter.
2. Teacher's use of effective teaching techniques and ability to address a range of learning styles.
3. Teacher's ability to convey material with clarity and facilitate comprehension, analysis, application, and critique.
4. Impact of instruction on the graduate.



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Indicate the award (check one):

lower division

graduate teaching award

upper division award

new faculty award

1. Nominee's name:

2. Nominee's school / department:

3. Nominee's rank or title:

4. Course load:

_____ % teaching appointment

_____ number of courses taught previous academic year

_____ total number of sections taught previous academic year

_____ number of courses taught year prior to previous academic year

_____ total number of sections taught prior to previous academic year

_____ student credit hours previous academic year

_____ student credit hours year prior to previous academic year



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5. Other teaching initiatives

_____ number of teaching-related grants

_____ number of other teaching related initiatives

Specify nature of initiative(s):

6. Include the following:

- ☐ the completed nomination form;
- ☐ a letter of nomination (any faculty member may nominate eligible faculty);
- ☐ a maximum five page curriculum vitae (ensure the vitae includes information on teaching grants or teaching-related scholarship);
- ☐ class ratings / evaluations for the last two years (provide departmental averages for comparison if available);
- ☐ four letters of support;
- ☐ letter of endorsement from department head;
- ☐ a statement by the nominee of his/her teaching philosophy (limit one page);

Nominator: _____

Date: _____