Virginia Commonwealth University

University Excellence in Service-Learning: Faculty Award

Award Description

The University Excellence in Service-Learning Faculty Award is given annually to two current faculty members who excel in utilizing service-learning pedagogy to deepen student learning and to build university-community partnerships that address community-identified needs.

Applications are due April 1, 2019

Eligibility: All current VCU faculty instructors, including adjunct instructors, who have completed at least one semester of teaching a Banner-designated VCU service-learning course. Instructors with appointments less than 100 percent FTE are eligible to apply.

Review Criteria: Applicants will be reviewed within the following categories of excellence:

● Innovative integrative teaching practices
● Student reflection and learning, and
● Partnership development.

Recognition of Winners: Winners of the University Excellence in Service-Learning Faculty Award will be recognized in a variety of ways, including: A $500 stipend, an engraved plaque, a letter of recognition sent to the winner’s dean and department chair, a university website story recognizing each winner’s accomplishments, and a recognition reception held on campus at the end of the spring semester.

Submission Guidelines: Service-learning faculty instructors are encouraged to submit the following documentation to support self-nominations. The questions shown below appear on the online Award Nomination Form.

a. Service-learning faculty instructor’s name, email, title, and department
b. List of service-learning courses taught
c. List of service-learning community partners including staff contact information.
d. Question #1: Innovative Integrative Teaching Practices. Describe the innovative teaching practices used that help students apply what they are learning in the classroom to their community service and/or help students integrate what they are learning through their community service to concepts being presented in the classroom/readings. Provide specific examples.
e. Question #2: Student Learning. Describe the reflection and/or orientation activities used that help deepen student learning. What evidence can be provided that demonstrates student learning through service? Provide specific examples.
f. Question #3: Partnership Development. Describe the steps taken to develop a mutually beneficial and trusting relationship with community partners and to collaborate with community partners to co-develop aspects of the course or service. Provide specific examples.
g. Attachment: Applicants must submit at least one of the following documents as evidence of excellence in the three question areas: Recent teaching evaluations from one or more service-learning classes; a teaching narrative that describes service-learning; a copy of an exemplary reflection assignment; a community partner letter of support; a copy of a service-learning partnership agreement or MOU. NOTE: Applicants may submit as many pieces of evidence as they’d like, but these must be submitted at the bottom of the online application form as a single PDF document using the document title “Last Name_Award Evidence” (e.g., Pelco_Award Evidence).

For more information and to apply, visit:

https://servicelearning.vcu.edu/teach-with-us/excellence-in-service-learning-faculty-award-