

2023 Dean's Distinguished Awards Program

Each year, the School of Education honors the exemplary achievements of its students, faculty, and staff. The awards recognize individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the mission-vision of the School of Education.

Nomination Guidelines

1. You may nominate yourself or another person(s) for the Dean's Awards.
2. Eligible nominees must be current students, faculty, or staff of the School of Education.
3. You may nominate one person per award category. If you are nominating the same person for multiple award categories, then you must submit separate nominations for each of the award categories.
4. The nomination form is completed online and consists of the following elements:
 - a. Description of support that provides evidence on the individual's qualifications for the award (Maximum of 500 words)
 - b. Optional supporting documents can be attached

Submission Guidelines

1. Award nominations should be submitted using the [online nomination form](#).
2. Deadline for submitting nominations is Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Award Categories

Please see the next page for detailed descriptions on each of the award types and their descriptions.

- Dean's Distinguished Staff Award
- Dean's Distinguished Service Award
- Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award
- Dean's Distinguished Research Award
- Dean's Distinguished Community Engagement/Research Practice Partnership Award
- Dean's Distinguished Mentoring Award
- Dean's Distinguished Graduate Student Award
- Dean's Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award

Dean’s Distinguished Staff Award

The Dean’s Distinguished Staff Award is an annual award that recognizes the extraordinary contributions of at least one outstanding staff member in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. This award allows members of our School community (faculty, staff, and/or students) to show their appreciation for a staff who has a consistent record of going above and beyond in positively contributing to improving the workplace. In addition to having made significant contributions to the workplace through excellence in overall work performance and quality of service, the recipient of the Dean’s Distinguished Staff Award will have also demonstrated and embodied our School’s cultural values of integrity, equity, creativity, accountability, and innovation.

Dean’s Distinguished Service Award

The Dean’s Distinguished Service Award honors individuals, groups, or organizations that have given graciously of their time and talents over a number of years to the improvement of our School of Education and the community as a whole. Recipients of this award are community members, educators, leaders, young people, families, and others who have made significant contributions to working with, supporting, and uplifting students, staff, and/or faculty in our School of Education, in the city of Pittsburgh, and/or across the region. Additionally, the recipients of this award embody the core values of our School’s mission-vision, as signified by a commitment to ignite, pursue and produce knowledge, and strive for well-being for all. Thus, the “Dean’s Distinguished Service Award” is presented to those individuals, groups, or organizations who have proven to be leaders in bringing about positive and meaningful change through an unwavering commitment to educational equity.

Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award

The Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award is presented by current students in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh to a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary teaching, as indicated by their innovative pedagogical practices, their dynamic classroom and/or community teaching engagements, and their critical teaching approaches. Additionally, this award honors faculty members who have made significant contributions to the preparation of future educators, researchers, clinicians, and/or other students in our School. By recognizing educators for their commitment to teaching, the Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award represents our School’s commitment to teaching and teachers and it demonstrates to the larger community (in our School, at the University, and within Local, National, and Global Communities) our School’s commitment to ignite learning and advance equity in teaching.

Dean’s Distinguished Research Award

The Dean’s Distinguished Research Award recognizes and promotes exceptional research that substantially contributes to the improvement of educational research. This award honors faculty members in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh who have made recent and significant achievements in educational scholarship. Additionally, the award acknowledges the

scholarly depth, research consistency, and innovative research design of a School of Education faculty member, as marked by published groundbreaking scholarly ideas and acclaimed critical and creative works. The recipient of this award will have a record of scholarship that advances knowledge discovery and generation, research methods and design, idea integration and application, and models for implication for critical, equity-oriented educational research.

Dean's Distinguished Community Engagement/RPP Award

The Dean's Distinguished Community Engagement and/or Research Practice Partnership (RPP) Award recognizes the significant and innovative community-engaged and/or research-practice work of faculty members and their community partners on a specific project in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. This award is based on strong ethics of reciprocity and mutually beneficial partnerships in which community partners, the general public, and the university benefit in ways not possible without the engagement or partnership. Such engagements and/or partnerships involve collaborative exchanges (teaching, learning, research, practice, engagement) that occur within a variety of contexts and that make education discoveries useful and implementable. Recipients of this award will have a commitment to as well as a record of outstanding achievement in community collaborations, community engagements, and/or research practice partnerships, as marked by an established initiative that has a long-term record of sustained impact, achievement, engagement, scholarship and observable effects on contexts of practice.

Dean's Distinguished Mentoring Award

The Dean's Distinguished Mentoring Award is presented to a graduate student (master's and/or doctoral level) and/or faculty member in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to mentoring, supporting, encouraging, and developing undergraduate and/or graduate students or early career faculty. While mentorship occurs in many forms, this award focuses on mentorship in a teaching, research, advocacy, and/or activist context. The recipient has a commitment to fostering and encouraging the professional, intellectual, and/or activist identities of others in humanizing, critical, supportive, and caring ways.

Dean's Distinguished Graduate Student Award

The Dean's Distinguished Graduate Student Award recognizes outstanding Master's or Doctoral-level students who have distinguished themselves through innovative scholarship, engaged teaching, impactful community engaged work, creative activities, and/or significant contributions made in leadership roles and in service contributions during their time in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. The recipient must have demonstrated a high aptitude for cultural awareness, must embody our School's cultural drivers, and must have a record of strong leadership on campus and in the community.

Dean's Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award

The Dean's Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award recognizes outstanding Undergraduate Students who have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishments in their educational studies in our School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. The recipient of this award must have demonstrated a high aptitude for cultural awareness and must embody the competencies of a Global Citizen. Selected on the basis of academic excellence and community engagement, the recipient must also embody our School's cultural drivers and have a record of strong leadership on campus and in the community.

Updated as of December 2022