

**Office of the Provost  
Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring  
2020 Guidelines**

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### **The Award**

The Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring will annually recognize outstanding mentors who have had the greatest impact on students who are seeking research doctorate degrees. Up to four awards will be made each year.

Each Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring will consist of a cash prize to the graduate faculty member of \$2,500 to recognize excellence in mentoring. All persons selected for this award will be honored publicly.

### **Evidence of Excellence in Mentoring**

Training the next generation of scholars is a vital part of the academic mission of the University of Pittsburgh. Fundamental to the success of the enterprise are the faculty members who serve as mentors to our doctoral students. Ideally, faculty mentors provide intellectual and personal leadership that helps to support, encourage, and promote the personal and professional development of his or her students. This relationship is expected to provide a foundation for a student's career long after the degree has been granted.

### **Eligibility**

Any current, active graduate faculty member who supervises graduate students pursuing PhD degrees or other research doctoral degrees, such as the DrPH, and who has served as a primary mentor (e.g. as thesis committee advisor) for **five or more doctoral** students is eligible to be nominated. While a minimum of five students is required, the focus of the award is recognizing the quality of the mentoring provided and not the number of students mentored.

### **Nominations**

Written nominations may be made by any individual or group of faculty, graduate students, or alumni who have evidence of the nominee's mentoring capabilities. Letters of nomination should be no more than three pages and should provide evidence of mentoring effectiveness through specific examples, such as ways the nominee:

- provides intellectual leadership, respects students' goals, and helps students work to accomplish them;
- actively guides students' research and training;
- clearly articulates expectations and holds students to high standards;
- actively involves students in professional situations and publications;
- helps students achieve meaningful goals including post-degree employment.

The letter should indicate for each nominator the signature, address, email address, phone number, and relationship to the nominee (e.g., faculty colleague, student, chair of the department, etc.). Letters of nomination are **due by October 18, 2019 and should be sent electronically Dr. Nathan Urban ([VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu](mailto:VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu))**.

## Selection Procedures

Eligible faculty nominated for this award will be invited to submit a mentoring dossier that includes the following:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Separate list of current and former doctoral students that the nominee has directed or worked closely with. For each student, include:
  - the student's name;
  - the faculty mentor's role (e.g. thesis advisor, thesis committee member, etc.);
  - current status of student (i.e. current student, graduated);
  - if graduated, student's current or recent position (position and title); and
  - achievements that indicate student success (e.g., co-authored publications, fellowships, awards, etc.) especially if the mentor played a role in that success (e.g. by nominating the student for an award or position);
- Statement on mentoring philosophy and practices (three page limit);
- A letter of support from a faculty member (such as a chair or director of graduate studies) familiar with the nominee's mentoring achievements. In particular, this letter should explain any relevant discipline-specific factors that would help the selection committee better understand the mentoring philosophy of the nominee. The nomination letter will be included in the dossier and may fulfill this requirement;
- Three letters of support from **former doctoral** students. The most effective letters will be from students directly mentored by the nominee and with whom the nominee has worked closely. These should be students who successfully completed their degree. Letters from students who can describe how the mentor's support contributed to their achievements are often particularly effective.

Nominees will be provided instructions on how to submit these materials electronically via InfoReady/Competition Space by October 25, 2019.

The mentoring dossier submission must be completed by December 13, 2019. For questions regarding the award please contact Nathan Urban ([VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu](mailto:VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu)).

The Awards Committee, appointed by the Provost, will evaluate the nominations and recommend a slate of winners to the Provost. The honorees will be announced in early spring.