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Sixth Annual Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Recognition  
Sponsored by  
Chief Academic Affairs Officers of the 15 Public Universities

A central mission of all 15 Michigan public universities is the provision of high quality undergraduate education. The Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year recognition program recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to undergraduate instruction.

**Eligibility Criteria**

The award is intended for tenured faculty members who demonstrate sustained commitment to undergraduate instruction and who are nominated by their institutions for excellence in fulfillment of the selection criteria.

**Selection Criteria**

Each institution will nominate one faculty member in a given year for the award even if the institution's nominee received the award the previous year. The nominating institution is asked to submit a package of materials of no more than **8 pages** (including appendices) that includes a letter of endorsement from the provost, a statement of teaching philosophy, and a narrative that highlights the contributions of the nominee to undergraduate education at the home institution and beyond (no other letters of endorsement are encouraged). The selection criteria upon which each candidate will be evaluated include the following:

**STUDENT LEARNING**

Interactions with undergraduates, academic advising, undergraduate research opportunities, scholarship on teaching and learning, and experiential learning are at the very heart of higher education and its commitment to student learning. The social exchange between professor and student is where learning occurs and individual transformation is possible. How has this professor demonstrated a commitment to what students learn in their courses?

**INTERACTIONS WITH UNDERGRADUATES**

Successful students make time to meet with professors. Engaged instructors make themselves open and available to all students with the hope that all can be successful. How has the professor made time to engage and interact with students?

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Students learn in a variety of ways and increasingly, students report a desire and a need to find ways to connect the material to the world within which they operate. How has the professor explored ways to infuse experience into their curricula?

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*Central Michigan University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ferris State University  
Grand Valley State University  
Lake Superior State University  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Northern Michigan University*



*Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
The University of Michigan – Dearborn  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University*

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Advising students through the institution as they find purpose and make meaning of their academic careers is an essential role of professors. How has the professor utilized time with students to inform the trajectory of their academic lives?

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

A distinctive advantage of undergraduate education at a university is the accessibility of research and the generation of new knowledge. How has the professor made research opportunities available to a potential cohort of new graduate students?

## SCHOLARSHIP ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Scholarship is consistently valued in the context of promotion and tenure. Less commonly considered are contributions to the advancement and innovation of teaching. How has the professor found and infused innovative strategies into their teaching and made that available to a broader professional community?

Submit the completed nomination materials to Patricia Farrell at [pfarrell@pcsum.org](mailto:pfarrell@pcsum.org) Please contact Patricia if you have any questions about the package, criteria, or event.

## **Award Distribution and Recognition**

The Presidents Council will annually host an awards ceremony to recognize all nominated faculty and announce the three Michigan Distinguished Professors of the Year. All nominees will be recognized at the luncheon with a gift, and the three winners will receive a commemorative plaque, \$3000, and the opportunity to speak for about 5 minutes at the ceremony.

## **Timeline**

Tuesday, January 31, 2012	All nominations are due to the Presidents Council office
Friday, April 6, 2012	Awards recipients will be notified
Tentative: May 10, 2012	Distinguished Professor of the Year Awards Luncheon