

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Duluth Campus

*Vice Chancellor for
Academic Administration*

*10 University Drive
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DATE: January 20, 2009
TO: Associate Deans
FROM: Vince Magnuson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Administration
SUBJECT: Jean G. Blehart Distinguished Teaching Award

A friend of UMD committed to the tradition of teaching excellence at UMD has made a gift to establish a distinguished teaching award. This award, the Jean G. Blehart Distinguished Teaching Award, is presented annually. Please announce to your faculty that this year the award carries a \$1,000 cash bonus or travel stipend.

Eligibility

Any full-time faculty member holding the rank of instructor or above at the University of Minnesota Duluth for at least five consecutive years, including the year of nomination, is eligible for nomination. Previous recipients of the Jean G. Blehart Distinguished Teaching Award will be eligible for re-nomination in the seventh academic year following acceptance of the award. Nominations made in any of the preceding three years will be considered automatically. The selection committee will ask for updates from the department providing the nomination.

Categories of Contribution

Nominees should have made contributions to the teaching mission of UMD that are of extraordinary quality. Nominees will be evaluated based on their performance in the following categories:

1. *Teaching and Advising:* Teaching includes all activities that engender learning, from classroom to laboratory, to field trips and supervised individual tutorials and research. Advising activities relate to guidance of individual students in program planning, personal development, and career concerns. Accessibility to students is an important aspect of all teaching and advising activities. The outstanding teacher displays a genuine interest in students as individuals, and continues that interest after the students become alumni.
2. *Academic Program Development:* This category includes those activities associated with the creation of materials, devices, techniques, procedures, and systems intended to improve the educational process. The success of these activities is apparent from their acceptance by teaching colleagues and by a positive response from students to learning.
3. *Educational Leadership:* Included are contributions toward the improvement of the total UMD student experience through faculty leadership and other professional activities at not only the university level, but in regional and national professional associations as well.

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Nomination

Any student, former student, or faculty or staff member of the University of Minnesota Duluth may make a nomination by submitting a nomination form (attached). Nominations are due to the nominee's department head by February 16, 2009.

Selection

After initial screening for eligibility by the department head, the department will determine the nominee's interest. If interested, the nominee will be asked to provide supporting documentation to include a statement of the nominee's educational philosophy, curriculum vitae, and student evaluations of teaching. The dossier must also include reference letters addressing the Blehart award criteria and a summary of the key reasons for the nomination.

Nominations and supporting documentation are due to the VCAA on February 27, 2009.

It is the hope of the donor that this award will be significant to all who value the quality of teaching that has characterized the University of Minnesota Duluth and that it will contribute to the maintenance of that tradition.

attachment (nomination form)