Above and Beyond Award

2026-2027

Call for Nominations — Guidelines

Nomination Procedure

1. Selection committee is created consisting of college dean, two staff members, two faculty members, and two students.
2. Microsoft Form is created to assess award criteria:

Name of faculty member you are nominating

Name of nominator

How has the nominee demonstrated leadership, initiative, and/or commitment to advancing access and inclusion?

In what ways has this nominee created space, visibility or opportunities that prioritize or highlight the experiences of diverse identities or historically underrepresented members of the community? Please provide specific examples.

Is there anything else you would like the committee to consider regarding this nominee and their ability to foster an inclusive and accessible university environment for all? This could include but is not limited to specific examples of their contributions such as mentorship and advocacy or links to letters of support or documentation that highlight their work.

Upload any documents that showcase the nominee's work here (optional).

3. Email with nomination form is sent out to all faculty and staff through the Office of Provost email on November 12th and again on January 19th.
4. Nominators have until January 25th to nominate a candidate for the award using the nomination form.
5. Selection committee meets to review candidates.
6. Acceptable candidates are sent to Provost and President office.

Criteria

1. Faculty must be involved in historically invisible and/or uncompensated unassigned work done in service of values highlighted in the State System's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Mission. This labor includes, but is not limited to curricular redesign, peer training and mentoring, service of multiple diversity committees, student mentoring and student support, developing study abroad experiences, supporting university recruitment and outreach efforts.
2. Faculty members cannot recommend oneself.

3. Requires narrative of faculty member's relevant exceptional service.

Acknowledgment

Recognition Plaque

A recognition plaque is presented by the President at the Employee Recognition Celebration event in April, held in the Smith Student Center Ballroom.

Award Winner — $1,000

The winner will receive $1,000 in professional travel funds.

Timetable for the Award

Due Date	Owner	Action Item
Monday, January 25, 2027	Nominators	Fill out Microsoft Forms with questions related to award criteria
Friday, February 5, 2027	Selection Committee	Selection Committee meets to review candidates
Friday, February 5, 2027	Selection Committee Chair	Committee's awardee recommendation submitted to the Provost and President.
April 6, 2027	President	Recognition plaque presented at the Employee Recognition Celebration event, Smith Student Center Ballroom.

University Selection Committee

Member	Role
Dr. Nicole Dafoe	Chair; Dean of the College of Engineering and Science
Amber Hamilton	Associate Professor of Athletics & Exploratory Studies
Dr. Cindy Candelaria-Pieve	Assistant Professor of Music
Emily Connell	Clerical in Library
Courtney Gramlich	Manager of Storm Harbor Equestrian Center
Anamalia Larson	Student
Eric McClung	Student

Previous Winners

Date	Winner	Department
2025-2026	Dr. Timothy Little Tran	Associate Professor of Music
2024-2025	Amber Hamilton	Assistant Professor of Athletics & Exploratory Studies