Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation

The University of Texas at Arlington

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

University Award for Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment

Purpose of Award

The University Award for Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment recognizes a faculty member for achieving a particularly important research or creative accomplishment during the past three years. A list of previous award winners is attached.

Eligibility

Any **full-time, regular faculty member** of The University of Texas at Arlington is eligible to be nominated for this award. Evidence of research or scholarly achievement must be in published form, and evidence of artistic or creative accomplishment must be in a form appropriate to the nominee's discipline. The achievement or accomplishment must have occurred **between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025**. This award is not limited to junior faculty and should not be construed to be secondary to the University Award for Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity.

Nominations (must be submitted electronically)

Nominations may be made by any full-time, regular member of The University of Texas at Arlington faculty. The nomination must be reviewed and evaluated by the college or school committee for research and creative activity. The college and school research committees will rank the nominees from the unit and forward the top candidate's materials in electronic format (pdf attachments, links to individual websites) to the Office of the Vice President for Research & Innovation (VPRI). Nomination for the award must be submitted exclusively through VPRI's website. Files will be available electronically for review by the Academy of Distinguished Researchers.

The nomination must specify which of the two tracks it is being submitted to.

Track 1: STEM Research Excellence

The nominee has made a paradigm-shifting impact on STEM research that has altered scientific understanding or opened new research directions. Committee members should assess whether the research has:

1. Challenged or overturned existing theories, leading to new explanatory frameworks.
2. Developed novel methodologies that have been widely adopted across the discipline.
3. Established new subfields that other scientists are now pursuing.

4. Generated findings that bridge previously disconnected areas of inquiry; or
5. Produced technologies or techniques that have enabled previously impossible investigations.

The nomination should make a compelling case for how the nominee's work shaped their field and should answer the following question: How has understanding of the research area changed as a result of this faculty member's work?

Track 2: Creative, Humanities, and Social Sciences Excellence

The nominee has made a transformative impact in creative, humanities, and/or social science fields by reshaping disciplinary conversations, artistic practices, theoretical frameworks, knowledge in the social sciences. Committee members should evaluate whether the nominee's contributions have:

1. Introduced new theoretical paradigms that have been widely adopted or debated.
2. Pioneered creative techniques, forms, or genres that have influenced subsequent artists or scholars.
3. Challenged dominant narratives or methodologies in ways that opened new avenues of inquiry.
4. Bridged disciplines to create hybrid fields of study; or
5. Influenced public discourse, policy, organizational or institutional effectiveness, or cultural understanding in critical ways.

The nomination should provide compelling evidence of how the nominee's work altered their discipline's trajectory, including its influence on emerging scholars and artists, and/or other crucial indicators of paradigm-shifting impact.

Selection Criteria

The emphasis of the Academy of Distinguished Researchers in selecting faculty to be recognized for an Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment award is on quality, importance, and impact of the research or creative accomplishment rather than on quantity of publications or pages, number of performances or gallery showings, or number of creative objects produced. Therefore, all nominations and supporting documentation should focus on establishing to a general academic audience the importance of a nominee's research or creative activity and the impact the contribution made in his or her field.

There will be two separate selection processes **(1) STEM research excellence, (2) Creative, Humanities, and Social Sciences Excellence**. Each year all Academy members will review, discuss, and vote on the applications received within each academic area, and an award will be made in each category. Thus, each Academy member will vote twice. First, they will review all nominations submitted to the STEM track, discuss them, and vote in a competitive process. Next, ADR members will review the nominations in the non-STEM track, discuss them, and vote. In short, the committee votes for one winner in the STEM group and one winner from non-STEM

group. The nominee with the most votes in each these tracks is given the award (two winners each year).

Nomination Procedure and Documentation

Each nomination reviewed by the Academy of Distinguished Researchers must include the five items listed below.

1. A completed cover sheet which specifies whether the submission is for the STEM or non-STEM track (attached).
2. A five-page (maximum) nomination form from the nominator outlining the basis for the nomination (See requirement below).
3. A one-page (maximum) letter from the appropriate (departmental or school) research committee summarizing the committee's basis for support of the nomination. This must include an explanation of the process of peer review customarily applied to publications or creative works within the discipline.
4. A three-page abbreviated three-year curriculum vita.
5. Copies (PDF or link) of the nominee's major publications and other appropriate supporting documentation of the nominee's scholarly achievement or creative activity (e.g., reviews of published work or creative activity). Only the nominee's most significant work should be provided in his/her file of work/evidence (**Maximum five documents**).

University Award Nomination Form (5-page limit).

Only the nominee's most significant work within the past three years specified above should be provided in his/her file of work/evidence.

1. **Proposed Citation:** One sentence to describe the significant contributions made by the nominee.
2. **Contribution Statement:** In not more than one page, explain the nominee's distinctive contributions in the field, and how it compared to his/her peers in the field and at UTA. Description of contribution should focus on the way that the nominee's work has changed the conversation in their field and/or fundamentally altered the trajectory of their discipline (see more details guidelines above under each specific track).
3. **Evidence of Accomplishment:** List up to five most important items of tangible and verifiable evidence supporting nominee's contribution. In sentence form, state their significance and lasting social impact of each (not more than 200 words each).
4. **Research Record Summary/Highlight:** List here specific research related activities/records, such as funding, publication, citation, shows, performances, etc.

   (Note: you are welcome to provide other statistics to show the impact of publication (e.g., journal impact factor, paper citation number), competitiveness of the funding (e.g., federal grants, success rates), critical reviews on your work, reports on media, social impacts, etc.).

5. **Impact to UTA:** List the nominee's related research leadership and mentorship roles at UTA, as well as specific impacts on UTA research community.
6. **Major Awards and Recognitions:** List up to five most significant ones.
7. **Leadership and Services Outside UTA:** List any of the nominee's other activities related to professional societies, volunteering, commercial activities, which can support the nominee's impact on and contributions to the discipline or field.

Incomplete Nominations

Incomplete nominations and nominations which have not been reviewed by the appropriate research committee will not be considered by the Academy of Distinguished Researchers.

Timeline for Outstanding Record Awards Nominations

December 12, 2025	Nomination packets due to departmental and school research committee
January 6, 2026	Nomination packets are due from Dean's Office to the VPRI Office. Nomination for the award must be submitted exclusively through VPRI Faculty Research Honors website.
February 1, 2026	Materials available for Academy review
March 1, 2026	Academy recommendations due to VPRI
March 15, 2026	All award winner names submitted to Faculty Affairs by the VPRI office.
April 16, 2026	Awardees recognized at Spring Faculty Meeting

Recipients of the University Award for
Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment

YEAR	AWARDEE	DEPARTMENT
1984	Jerold A. Edmondson	Foreign Languages and Linguistics
1985	No Awardee Selected	
1986	No Awardee Selected	
1987	Billy P. Buckles	Computer Science and Engineering
1987	Thomas H. McInish	Finance and Real Estate
1987	John R. Reynolds	Chemistry
1988	Gilbert Dale Story	Political Science
1989	R. Joseph Guy	Architecture
1989	Stanley H. Palmer	History
1989	Paul B. Paulus	Psychology
1990	Jonathan A. Campbell	Biology
1991	No Awardee Selected	
1992	Roy N. West	Physics
1993	Linton E. Powell	Music
1993	Christopher Scotese	Geology
1994	Richard Schoech	Social Work
1995	C. Jan Swearingen	English
1996	Robert Magnusson	Electrical Engineering
1996	Christopher C. Morris	History
1997	No Awardee Selected	
1998	James Grover	Biology
1998	Beth Wright	Art and Art History
1999	David Harrison	Management
1999	Deborah Reed-Danahay	Sociology and Anthropology
2000	Frank Lewis	Electrical Engineering
2000	Patrick Phillips	Biology
2001	Juergen Schieber	Geology
2002	Diane Cook	Computer Science and Engineering
2003	Sharma Chakravarthy	Computer Science and Engineering
2004	Hanli Liu	Biomedical Engineering
2005	Lawrence B. Holder	Computer Science and Engineering
2006	Zeynep Celik-Butler	Electrical Engineering
2006	Laurin R. Porter	English
2007	Rasika Dias	Chemistry and Biochemistry

2007	Wei-Jen Lee	Electrical Engineering
2008	Carolyn Cason	Nursing
2008	J. Ping Liu	Physics
2009	Kaushik De	Physics
2009	Mary Vaccaro	Art and Art History
2010	Pranesh B. Aswath	Mechanical & Aerospace/Materials Science Engr.
2011	Meng Tao	Electrical Engineering
2012	Liping Tang	Bioengineering
2013	Qilian Liang	Electrical Engineering
2013	Ya'Ke Smith	Art and Art History
2014	Jung-Chih (J.C.) Chiao	Electrical Engineering
2014	Maria Scannapieco	Social Work
2015	Wendy Casper	Management
2015	Jaehoon Yu	Physics
2015	Weidong Zhou	Electrical Engineering
2016	Heng Huang	Computer Science & Engineering
2017	Yue Deng	Physics
2017	Kytai Nguyen	Bioengineering
2018	Yi (Leaf) Zhang	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
2018	Baohong Yuan	Bioengineering
2019	Michael Vasilyev	Electrical Engineering
2019	Rhonda Prisby	Kinesiology
2019	Sarah Rose	History
2020	Yan Wan	Electrical Engineering
2020	Todd Castoe	Biology
2021	Qinhong (Max) Hu	Earth & Environmental Sciences
2021	Yi Hong	Bioengineering
2022	Sen Xu	Biology
2022	Ashfaq Adnan	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
2022	Ashley Lemke	Sociology/Anthropology
2023	Paul Conrad	History
2023	Michael Nelson	Kinesiology
2024	Yuze "Alice" Sun	Electrical Engineering
2024	Venu Varanasi	Nursing
2025	Kyrah Brown	Kinesiology- Public Health
2025	Ben Jones	Physics

Recipients of the University Award for
Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity

YEAR	AWARDEE	DEPARTMENT
1979	William F. Pyburn	Biology
1979	David Keens	Art
1980	Tseng Huang	Civil Engineering
1981	V. Lakshmikantham	Mathematics
1982	Zoltan Schelly	Chemistry
1983	Donald Greenspan	Mathematics
1984	H. J. Arnott	Biology
1985	Vincent Bruno	Art
1986	Richard B. Myrick	Landscape Architecture
1987	Brooks B. Ellwood	Geology
1988	Edmund D. Brodie, Jr.	Biology
1988	Dennis S. Marynick	Chemistry
1989	Adrian K. Fung	Electrical Engineering
1990	Robert E. Longacre	Foreign Languages and Linguistics
1990	Robert F. McMahon	Biology
1991	Constantin Corduneanu	Mathematics
1991	Syed R. Qasim	Civil Engineering
1991	Krishnan Rajeshwar	Chemistry
1992	Kamesetty Rao	Electrical Engineering
1992	John Maruszczak	Architecture
1993	Joseph W. Bastien	Sociology and Anthropology
1994	Lawrence L. Schkade	Information Systems and Management Sciences
1994	Frank Lewis	Electrical Engineering
1995	Rangachary Kannan	Mathematics
1996	A. Haji-Sheikh	Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering
1997	Martin Pomerantz	Chemistry and Biochemistry
1998	Jonathan Campbell	Biology
1998	Susan Hekman	Political Science
1999	Martin Price	Architecture
2000	Richard Francaviglia	History
2001	Richard Timmons	Chemistry
2002	William Ickes	Psychology
2003	Alex Weiss	Physics
2004	Kenneth M. Roemer	English
2005	Sajal K. Das	Computer Science and Engineering

2005	Jerold A. Edmondson	Linguistics
2005	Wendy B. Faris	English
2006	Robert J. Gatchel	Psychology
2007	Paul Paulus	Psychology
2008	Chaoqun Liu	Mathematics
2009	Andrew White	Physics
2009	James Campbell Quick	Management
2010	Purnendu Dasgupta	Chemistry and Biochemistry
2011	Asok Ray	Physics
2011	Douglas Richmond	History
2012	Dan Armstrong	Chemistry and Biochemistry
2013	Anand Puppala	Civil Engineering
2014	Frederick MacDonnell	Chemistry and Biochemistry
2015	Ann Cavallo	Curriculum and Instruction
2015	Kaushik De	Physics
2016	Christopher Kribs	Mathematics and Curriculum and Instruction
2017	Andrew Brandt	Physics
2018	Kytai Nguyen	Bioengineering
2018	Nancy Palmeri	Art & Art History
2019	Yue Deng	Physics
2019	Efstathios Meletis	Materials Science and Engineering
2019	Ignacio Ruiz-Perez	Modern Languages
2020	Wei Chen	Physics
2020	Benito Huerta	Art & Art History
2021	Larry Chonko	Marketing
2021	Ramon Lopez	Physics
2022	Paul Fadel	Kinesiology
2023	Vijayan Pillai	Social Work
2023	Weidong Zhou	Electrical Engineering
2024	Sam Haynes	History
2024	Jaehoon Yu	Physics
2025	Ping Liu	Physics