

University of Portland Award for Outstanding Mentor for Undergraduate Research

The Office of the Provost in conjunction with the Office of Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement offers an Outstanding Mentor for Undergraduate Research Award annually to an individual faculty member who has demonstrated sustained outstanding achievement in mentoring undergraduates in research or creative activities. This award is presented at the annual Founders' Day Awards Breakfast.

Evaluation Criteria

Strong candidates may demonstrate excellence in any number ways: building students' cognitive and practical skills; creating opportunities for meaningful individual and/or group work; or by leveraging undergraduate research or creative endeavors to support students' educational and career trajectories. Examples of relevant evidence may include peer-reviewed publications involving undergraduates; student presentations, awards, or scholarships; or evidence of continued success from mentored students. Excellent undergraduate mentors support students through their availability and attentiveness to each individual student, carefully crafting a plan for student success and guiding students through that development with encouragement, understanding, and effective feedback. Both individual and course-based mentorship will be considered.

Eligibility, Nomination and Review Process

The award is open to all tenured faculty members. Faculty members may be nominated by a colleague, an administrator, a student or may self-nominate. The Undergraduate Research Advisory Board reviews the nominations. The strongest nominations from the committee are forwarded to the Provost's Council for selection.

Timeline:

- Nominations due to ur@up.edu – December 15
- Candidate Materials due – Second Friday of Spring Semester
- Review of Candidate Materials by Undergraduate Research Advisory Board and finalists submitted to the Provost's Council – early February
- Provost's Council selects recipient – late February
- Award recipient announced – Founders' Day Awards Breakfast

Candidate Submissions

In support of their case the nominee must submit to the committee:

1. A narrative statement, not to exceed 3 double spaced pages, that describes your work in relation to the stated criteria.
2. Up to 2 supporting documents, no more than three pages each, that may include but not be limited to:
 - A list of all mentored undergraduates including project titles and dates of mentorship, outcomes such as publications, presentations (no duplicate

presentations please), grants or scholarships where students are co-authors or recipients. Designate the undergraduate researchers involved in each project by underlining their names.

- A list that outlines supporting activities such as grants, research papers or other activities that broadly support undergraduate research.
- 3.** Two letters of support from individuals of your choice who can *best* speak to the above criteria.

A candidate's submission stays with the Undergraduate Research Advisory Board for three years for consideration each year.