



School of Applied Sciences

Gillespie Distinguished Scholar Award

Purpose:

The Gillespie Distinguished Scholar Award is designed to recruit and retain high quality faculty in the school. This award is designed to 1) honor and reward faculty who have made outstanding contributions in the area of scholarly teaching, scholarship, and research 2) identify a core of outstanding scholars who will serve as models to engage, mentor and inspire other faculty and graduate students to become distinguished scholars in their disciplines; 3) foster expanded research within the School of Applied Sciences.

The faculty member(s) selected by the School of Applied Sciences awards committee and approved by the Dean will serve as Distinguished Scholar(s) for a term of two years. Those selected must have a break of one year before becoming eligible to be nominated for a second term.

Award and Recognition:

During the two year appointment, the selected member(s) will receive a total award of \$9,000. This will come from a \$4,500 annual award from the Gillespie Endowment and an additional \$4,500 matching award funded using the Dean's office resources. The award will be paid beginning in September of each year and the faculty member receiving the award will have the designation of "Distinguished Scholar" added to their faculty title. They will be able to carry this title as long as they are employed at the University of Mississippi.

Eligibility:

In order to be eligible for a Gillespie Distinguished Scholar Award, faculty members must:

- *Have been a full time permanent faculty in the UM School of Applied Sciences for at least one year.
- *Be tenured or tenure track at any rank.
- *Have consistently demonstrated that they have made significant contributions as a scholar in teaching, independent or collaborative research/scholarship productivity and/or exceptional research mentorship.
- *Department Chairs who are tenured and continue to be actively involved in research are eligible.
- *Deans, Associate Deans nor Assistant Deans, are not eligible to receive this award.

Nominations:

Nominations may come from full time permanent member of the faculty, a Department Chair, Deans, Associate Dean, or Assistant Dean or current students. Nominations must be in the form of letters to the Dean briefly stating the nominee's qualifications for the award. The letters should convey what is unique and striking about

the candidate as a scholar, special qualities he/she brings to the academic enterprise, and what notable successes he/she has had in research/scholarly activities.

Upon nomination, the nominee will be notified and given the opportunity to accept or reject the nomination. If the nomination is accepted, the nominee will become a candidate. Subsequently, the candidate's department chair will be notified and asked to provide the Evaluation Committee with an evaluation of the candidate's teaching, research and professional service record.

Each nominated faculty member who agrees to become a candidate will provide the Evaluation Committee with the materials that reflect justification for the nomination. Examples of documentation that can be submitted includes but is not limited to:

Examples of the faculty member's national recognition for the development of or use of innovative teaching methods.

Examples where the faculty member was nationally recognized for excellence in teaching, innovation, or research.

Examples of meritorious research including acquisition of significant or highly competitive external awards.

Examples of meritorious collaborative research or research mentorship resulting in the exceptional success of other faculty or students.

Application Materials to be sent forward to the Office of the Dean: (3 copies required)

1. Current curriculum vita
2. Last three years faculty activity reports
3. Portfolio that provides evidence of specific accomplishments worthy of distinguished recognition, including but not limited to:
 - Honors, awards, or other forums of the recognition for excellence in teaching
 - Evidence of professional recognition of outstanding abilities
 - Documentation outcomes resulting from new teaching materials or practice techniques developed
 - Evidence of activities undertaken to assist/mentor colleagues with their teaching or research
 - Evidence of the integration of his/her teaching, research and/or practice philosophies;
4. Two letters of recommendations from colleagues with knowledge of their contributions.
5. Two letters of recommendations from students who have knowledge of their contributions.
6. Letter of recommendation from the Department Chair or Director in their discipline.

Selection:

The Associate Dean of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity will chair a selection committee consisting of two tenured faculty, two administrators and one external member who is a documented scholar. After extensive review of the applications submitted in July each year, the Distinguish Teaching Scholars are recommended by the Distinguished Teacher Scholars Evaluation Committee and approved by the Dean. At the discretion of the Dean, the award may not make if a suitable candidate is not identified. The award is not automatically renewable and will end when full time employment ceases.

Funding:

Funding will be provided by the earnings of the Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Endowment(s). Contributions may be made by anyone to grow the endowment(s). The number of Distinguished Teacher Scholar Selected in any year is determined by the earnings available for disbursement from the Distinguished Teaching Scholars Endowment(s).