

PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2026 Call for Nominations

- ▶ Faculty IP Innovation and Commercialization Award (FIPICA)
- ▶ Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA)
- ▶ Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)
- ▶ Innovation, Development, and Engagement Award (IDEA)
- ▶ Innovations in Student Success Award (ISSA)
- ▶ University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>3</u>	Message from the President
<u>4</u>	Overview of the President's Excellence Awards
<u>5-6</u>	Faculty IP Innovation and Commercialization Award (FIPICA)
<u>7</u>	FIPICA Nomination Data
<u>8-9</u>	Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA)
<u>10-11</u>	ORCA Nomination Data and Memorandum to Peer Reviewers
<u>12-13</u>	Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)
<u>14</u>	OTICA Nomination Data
<u>15-16</u>	Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA)
<u>17-18</u>	IDEA Nomination Data and Memorandum to Outside Reviewers
<u>19-20</u>	Initiatives in Student Success Award (ISSA)
<u>21</u>	ISSA Nomination Data
<u>22-24</u>	University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA)
<u>25</u>	UDTA Nomination Data
<u>26</u>	Questions and Submission Information

A MESSAGE FROM DR. GOLD ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dear Colleagues,

Together, we are taking on the monumental task of transforming our excellent institution into one that is truly extraordinary. It is important that early on in this journey, we take stock of and celebrate the outstanding work already taking place across our campuses. The University of Nebraska System's President's Excellence Awards present a valuable chance to do just that.

These awards are the highest form of recognition to celebrate success in the classroom, the laboratory and in our campus and broader communities—from research and creative activity to teaching and student outcomes. Nominations are now open for the President's Excellence Awards, and I encourage you to take this opportunity to nominate a colleague or department that exemplifies the best work taking place across our campuses today.

Individual winners are awarded \$10,000 each, a presidential medallion and an engraved plaque. The departmental or team winner receives \$25,000 to support its instructional mission. All winners, who are chosen by panels of their peers, are honored at the summer Board of Regents meeting.

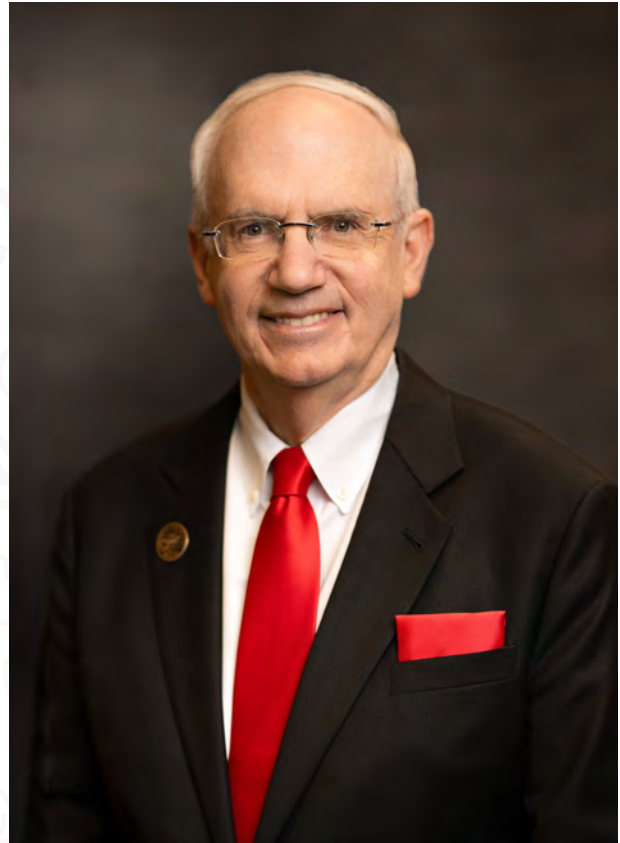
A culture of excellence is deeply embedded in the University of Nebraska's legacy, and we celebrate that culture with these awards. The work done by faculty and staff is critical to our future success. I hope you will join me in our odyssey to extraordinary as we lift up the accomplishments of your colleagues and friends.



Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

President

University of Nebraska System



OVERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The University of Nebraska annually presents six distinguished awards to recognize especially meritorious research, teaching, and innovative efforts by individuals and within academic departments. We are now seeking and welcome your nominations for the 2026 awards. The award recipients will be announced in the spring.

Faculty IP Innovation and Commercialization Award (FIPICA)

Honors members of the University of Nebraska faculty who have developed and nurtured new intellectual property from concept to licensing/startup business.

Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA)

Honors members of the University of Nebraska faculty who have conducted outstanding research or creative activity of national/international significance.

Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)

Honors members of the University of Nebraska faculty who have developed meritorious and sustained records of excellence in teaching and creativity related to teaching.

Innovation, Development, and Engagement Award (IDEA)

Honors members of the University of Nebraska faculty who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University in ways that have enriched the broader community.

Innovations in Student Success Award (ISSA)

Honors a faculty led or faculty-involved team effort that has made a unique and significant contribution to improving undergraduate six-year graduation rates. This award honors specific and successful innovations designed to improve retention and graduation rates among students the unit serves in a major, within a school, within a college, or throughout a campus.

University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA)

Honors a department/unit at the University of Nebraska that has outstanding esprit de corps in its dedication to the education of students at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional levels.

Details of the awards and the nomination procedures are provided in this brochure. Please note that each award has its own requirements and selection process.

FACULTY IP INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION AWARD (FIPICA)

►►► *Description*

The Faculty IP Innovation and Commercialization Award (FIPICA) shall be presented each year to honor a faculty member who has, in the course of their University career, developed and nurtured significant new intellectual property (IP) from concept to licensing and/or startup business.

Potential Areas of Achievement Include:

- Development of research and technology that has resulted in licensed patents or other University-marketed IP.
- Creation of a startup business based on faculty-developed and University-owned IP.

**The FIPICA award is given for a sustained record of excellent accomplishment in a university career.
The recipient is honored at an awards ceremony at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹, and is awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.**

Criteria

The award is presented to faculty with a record of sustained efforts to develop and nurture one or more elements of IP from creation, development, and licensing (including, in some cases, startup business development). Their efforts in developing and nurturing the IP should have gone beyond the ordinary expectations of faculty work. Recipients are honored annually, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.

Eligibility

- Award eligibility is intended to be for full-time faculty members at the time of their original IP generation. Faculty members with reduced FTE for the purposes of engaging in the further development of university-owned IP (including SBIR grant holders) ARE eligible for this award.
- A major part of the work on which each nomination is based must have been done while the nominee served at the University of Nebraska.
- Ordinarily, a nominee will have been at the University of Nebraska for at least 5 years.
- A nominee is eligible for three consecutive years and their application must be **updated and resubmitted** by the nominator each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again.
- In the event of the death of a candidate, eligibility for that deceased candidate will extend only to include the academic year in which he or she died. No eligibility will be carried forward to subsequent years.

Committee

The first screening of nominations will be done at the campus level. Each Chancellor will establish a campus process to review possible nominees and may sanction a maximum of three nominees for consideration by the Awards Selection Committee.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan 9 2026.

The Provost appoints an Awards Selection Committee to review the campus-sanctioned nominations; the committee will submit its awardee recommendations to the Provost. This six-member committee will consist of one faculty member from each campus and the Directors of NuTech Ventures and UNeMed Corporation. Faculty committee members serve staggered, three-year terms.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (FIPICA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

1. **Nomination data entered in the online form** (see page 6).
2. **Letters from the nominator and seconder(s)** summarizing and providing specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments in the creation, development, and nurturing of IP into a licensed product(s) and/or startup business. Nominators may be faculty, administrators, community members, or alumni. The letters should clearly substantiate the significance of the nominee's IP to the University, Nebraska, and the intended community to which it is useful. No person should act as nominator or seconder for more than one nominee.
3. **A current curriculum vitae of the nominee.**
4. **Evidence of the nominee's most significant accomplishments.** Evidence to be considered might be patents, licenses, testimonials, marketing materials (including website and video link), non-confidential business plans, etc. Limit evidence to not more than 25 pages of material.
5. Nominators and those submitting materials should consider that the selection committee consists of individuals with various disciplinary backgrounds and expertise, and should therefore **use language that relates to a wide audience.**



The 2025 FIPICA winner: Thanh
Nguyen, Ph.D., M.S.N, FNP-C
(UNMC)

FACULTY IP INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION AWARD (FIPICA) NOMINATION DATA

▶▶▶ The FIPICA recognizes faculty members who have developed and nurtured significant intellectual property from concept to licensing and/or the establishment of a startup business.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

- 1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
- 2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
- 3. Click on “Add a New Application”.
- 4. Scroll to: “**President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Faculty IP Innovation and Commercialization Award (FIPICA)** (Competition ID# 1217).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominee:	Nominator:	Secunder ¹ :
Name	Name	Name
Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title
University of Nebraska Hire Date	Academic Area/Department	Academic Area/Department
Academic Area/Department	Campus	Campus
Campus	Campus Address and Zip	Campus Address and Zip
Campus Address and Zip	Email	Email
Email	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)
Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)		

Upload a single PDF file with the following: (1) nominating letter, (2) seconding letter(s), (3) curriculum vitae of nominee, (4) evidence of nominee’s most significant accomplishments. Letters of support from individuals not affiliated with the NU System are recommended but not required, and may be included in the PDF file.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026.

¹You will be given the option to choose a secunder who is not affiliated with NU. If that is the case this information will change slightly.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD (ORCA)

►►► *Description*

Two ORCA Awards are presented each year honoring outstanding research or creative activity of national/international significance conducted by individual, full-time faculty members at the University of Nebraska. The awards are given for a sustained record of excellent accomplishment in research or creative activity, rather than “meritorious service.”

Only one award may be presented in each of the two following academic areas (an award need not be made to either group in any given year):

GROUP 1: Arts and Humanities (including Creative and Performing Arts), Business and Social Sciences, and Professional Education; and

GROUP 2: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Medical Sciences.

The recipients are honored at an annual awards ceremony, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.

**The ORCA awards are given for a sustained record of excellent accomplishment in research or creative activity.
The recipients are honored at an awards ceremony at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.**

Eligibility

- Nominations of full-time faculty members must be for one individual only and not for a couple or team.
- A major part of the work on which each nomination is based must have been done while the nominee has served at the University of Nebraska. Each nominee must still be engaged in research or other creative activity at the University to be eligible.
- Nominees are eligible for three consecutive years and applications must be **updated and resubmitted** by the nominator each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again.
- In the event of the death of a candidate, eligibility for that deceased candidate will extend only to include the academic year in which he or she died. No eligibility will be carried forward to subsequent years.

Committee

The first screening of nominations will be done at the campus level. Each Chancellor will establish a campus process to select nominees that will be forwarded to an Awards Selection Committee. The selection procedure will emphasize the outstanding contributions made by nominees to the institution's research mission.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9, 2026.

The provost selects eight members representing six major academic areas: Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Sciences, Professional Education, Biological/Agricultural Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Medical Sciences from the Graduate Faculty of the University of Nebraska to serve three-year terms on the Awards Selection Committee. This committee reviews the nominations and determines the final winners.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (ORCA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

1. **Nomination data entered in the online form** (see page 9).
2. **Letters from the nominator and seconder** summarizing and giving specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments in research or creative activity. The letters (each no more than five pages in length) may include any information on the nominee's research or creative activity. The letters should clearly substantiate the national/international significance of the nominee's work, as well as the nominee's continued involvement in research or other creative activity. No faculty member should act as nominator or seconder for more than one nominee. Additional letters of recommendation from within the University should not be solicited.
3. **A current curriculum vitae of the nominee.**
4. **A list of the nominee's most significant publications or other creative works.** Evidence presented for consideration might be publications (preferably refereed), books, invited talks at symposia, shows, honors, and awards.
5. **Names, addresses, emails, and telephone numbers of five peer reviewers** from outside the University of Nebraska system who have been asked by the nominator to provide letters in support of the nomination (see below).
6. Nominators and those submitting materials should consider that the selection committee consists of individuals with various disciplinary backgrounds and expertise, and should therefore **use language that relates to a wide audience.**



The 2025 ORCA winners:
Jay Storz, Ph.D. and Timothy
Schaffert, M.F.A. (UNL)

The nominator(s) will contact the five peer reviewers they listed on the online nomination form (number five above) to solicit support letters (see page 10).

****These letters are to be emailed directly to the Office of the Provost by Jan. 9, 2026. Only peer reviewer letters that are sent directly to the Provost's Office by the peers themselves will be accepted (evpp@nebraska.edu). Nominators are encouraged to contact the Provost's Office to ensure all required letters were received.***

The nominator is to share the memo (example on page 10) titled "Memorandum to Peer Reviewers" with the peer reviewers. This memorandum includes information about the award and guidelines to follow in writing letters of support, and is available for download in NuRamp.

***CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CONTACT PEERS IN AMPLE TIME SO THEY CAN EMAIL THEIR REPLIES PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE OF JAN. 9, 2026.**

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD (ORCA) NOMINATION DATA

- The ORCA Award is presented in recognition of outstanding research or other creative activity of national/international significance conducted by full-time faculty members of the University of Nebraska (NU). The production of such significant work is the principal criterion on which the selection of award recipients is based. Nominations must be for one individual only and not for a couple or a team. A major part of the work on which each nomination is based must have been done while the nominee has served at NU, and each nominee must still be engaged in research or other creative activity at NU to be eligible.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
3. Click on “Add a New Application”.
4. Scroll to:

“President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA) - ARTS and HUMANITIES” (competition ID# 1218).

(Including Creative and Performing Arts, Business and Social Sciences, and Professional Education)

OR

“President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA) - BIOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, and MEDICAL SCIENCES” (competition ID# 1219).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominee:

Name

Full Professional Title

NU Hire Date

Academic Area/Department

Campus

Campus Address and Zip

Email

Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

Nominator:

Name

Full Professional Title

Academic Area/Department

Campus

Campus Address and Zip

Email

Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

Seconder¹:

Name

Full Professional Title

Academic Area/Department

Campus

Campus Address and Zip

Email

Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

ORCA Peer Reviewers: (Information for five individuals)

First Name

Last Name

Full Physical Address

Email

Telephone Number (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

List of five reviewers from whom the nominator will seek support letters (see page 10).

Upload a single PDF file with the following: (1) nominating letter, (2) seconding letter, (3) curriculum vitae of nominee, and (4) list of the nominee’s most significant publications or other creative works.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. Letters of support must be received directly from the reviewer at evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9, 2026.

¹You will be given the option to choose a seconder who is not affiliated with NU. If that is the case this information will change slightly.

MEMORANDUM TO PEER REVIEWERS FOR THE ORCA AWARD

- ▶▶▶ The following should be used to solicit peer review support letters. (A letterhead/PDF version is available on nuramp.nebraska.edu at the application step where nominees identify outside reviewers.)

**To: Peer Reviewers of Candidates for the University of Nebraska
Outstanding Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Award**

From: ORCA Awards Selection Committee

Letters of support from five peer reviewers outside the University of Nebraska system are required for the nomination of a faculty member for the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award, which was established to recognize research and creative activity of national or international significance conducted at the University of Nebraska. Nominations are solicited from the faculties of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Two “ORCA” awards are given each year—one for a faculty member in the areas of arts and humanities (including the creative and performing arts), business and social sciences, and professional education, and one for a faculty member in the areas of biological sciences, medical sciences, and physical sciences. ORCA recipients are honored annually in the spring, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and a plaque.

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of support on behalf of one of the professors who has been nominated for this prestigious award. Your support letter will be shared with the members of the Awards Selection Committee, which is composed of professors from a wide variety of disciplines and is intended to represent a cross-section of the University of Nebraska community. With that in mind, your letter will best represent the candidate if it is addressed to scholars of any discipline, avoiding technical terminology, and placing the candidate’s achievements and contributions in a wide and broad context.

In the support letter, you may want to address the following questions:

1. Which of the professor’s works do you regard as most important?
2. What has been the influence of this work on the development of the field?
3. How does the professor rank among other scholars in this discipline nationwide?

Please email your letter of support by Jan. 9, 2026 to:

Lori Robison
ORCA Awards Selection Committee
Provost’s Office
University of Nebraska
evpp@nebraska.edu

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Robison at: (402) 472-5242 | evpp@nebraska.edu.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD (OTICA)

►►► *Description*

Up to two OTICA Awards are presented each year to full-time faculty members of the University of Nebraska in honor and recognition of meritorious and sustained records of excellence in teaching and creativity related to teaching. Both awards may be made to the same campus in a given year.

The OTICA awards are given in honor and recognition of meritorious and sustained records of excellence in teaching and creativity related to teaching.

The recipients are honored at an awards ceremony at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.

Eligibility

- Faculty members who have served full-time at the University for at least five years are eligible.
- Nominees are eligible for three consecutive years and applications must be **updated and resubmitted** each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again. Each resubmission should be accompanied by at least one new letter of support. Self-nominations are acceptable.
- An individual who has received the award will be known as a Distinguished Teacher Ad Perpetuum and is not eligible for re-nomination for the award.
- In the event of the death of a candidate, eligibility for that deceased candidate will extend only to include the academic year in which he or she died. No eligibility will be carried forward to subsequent years.

Committee and Nominations

The first screening of nominations will be done at the campus level. Each Chancellor will establish a campus process to select nominees that will be forwarded to an Awards Selection Committee. The selection procedure will emphasize the outstanding contributions made by nominees to the institution's teaching mission.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9, 2026.

The provost appoints an Awards Selection Committee to review the campus-sanctioned nominations; the committee will submit its awardee recommendations to the Provost. This five-member committee consists of faculty nominated by the Academic Vice Chancellors, including two members from UNL and one from each of the other campuses. Members of the committee serve staggered, three-year terms.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (OTICA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

1. **Nomination data entered in the online form** (see page 13).
2. **Letters from the nominator and the seconder** summarizing and giving specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments in teaching. The nominator and seconder should emphasize the impact of the nominee's accomplishments in motivating students to develop the full range of their intellectual talents. Nominators can be faculty, students, or alumni. No one should serve as nominator or seconder for more than one nominee. A nomination made by a student must be seconded by a full-time faculty member. The student may be assisted in the creation of the nomination by the nominee or other faculty. This assistance may include, for example, providing advice on obtaining letters of recommendation, collecting evaluation instruments, etc., so that the nomination by a student may be competitive.
3. **A one-page statement of the candidate's teaching philosophy.**
4. **A current curriculum vitae of the nominee** (limited to six pages), preferably emphasizing the teaching accomplishments of the nominee.
5. **A summary of student and peer evaluations of the nominee's teaching**, including specific comparative data as evidence that the nominee's teaching is clearly superior to the norm established by their peers and including evidence of teaching effectiveness. Individual student evaluation forms are not to be included; however, questions used to solicit student evaluations may be included.
6. **A condensed description of the nominee's creative activities relating to teaching.** Course syllabi or textbooks are not to be included. The Awards Selection Committee prefers to receive carefully devised nominations without voluminous and repetitive support information.
7. **No more than five letters of support** (preferably written within the past three years) from students (current or former) suggested by the nominee, who have direct knowledge of and who have been directly impacted by the nominee. Letters from students should include commentary on: (1) the impact of the nominee's teaching activity; and (2) how the nominee compares with other faculty in areas of teaching excellence and creativity.
8. **No more than three letters of support from peer reviewers** (preferably written within the past three years) solicited by the nominator about the quality of the nominee's teaching contributions. Letters from peer reviewers should include commentary on: (1) the importance and appropriateness of the nominee's teaching activity for his or her particular field; (2) the impact of the nominee's teaching activity; and (3) the outstanding contributions of the nominee to teaching excellence and instructional creativity.
9. Nominators and those submitting materials should consider that the selection committee consists of individuals with various disciplinary backgrounds and expertise, and should therefore **use language that relates to a wide audience.**



The 2025 OTICA winners:
Betsy J. Becker, PT., D.P.T., Ph.D.
(UNMC) and Renee McFee, D.V.M.,
Ph.D. (UNL)

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD (OTICA) NOMINATION DATA

▶▶▶ The OTICA Award recognizes outstanding teaching and instructional creativity by full-time faculty members of the University of Nebraska.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

- 1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
- 2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
- 3. Click on “Add a New Application”.
- 4. Scroll to “President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)” (Competition ID# 1220).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominee:	Nominator:	Secunder ¹ :
Name	Name	Name
Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title
University of Nebraska Hire Date	Academic Area/Department	Academic Area/Department
Academic Area/Department	Campus	Campus
Campus	Campus Address and Zip	Campus Address and Zip
Campus Address and Zip	Email	Email
Email	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)
Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)		

Upload a single PDF file with the following: (1) nominating letter, (2) seconding letter, (3) one-page statement of the candidate’s teaching philosophy, (4) curriculum vitae of nominee, (5) summary of student and peer evaluations of nominee’s teaching, (6) condensed description of nominee’s creative activities related to teaching, (7) no more than five letters of support from students, and (8) no more than three letters of support from peer reviewers.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026.

¹You will be given the option to choose a seconder who is not affiliated with NU. If that is the case this information will change slightly.

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD (IDEA)

►►► *Description*

Up to two IDEA Awards shall be presented each year to honor faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University in ways that have enriched the broader community. These faculty members have worked with citizens, businesses, government, and non-profit organizations, other educational institutions, communities, or regions to develop new ideas, projects, technologies, or events resulting in new development that strengthened the region or community economically, culturally, environmentally, or governmentally.

Potential Areas of Achievement Include:

- Creation of new regional, national, or international partnerships across public and private sectors that foster economic growth.
- Initiatives that promote improved health, environment, and social services.
- Partnerships with schools and communities that improve quality and access to education.
- Cultural activities that enrich the community's understanding of the arts, letters, and history of the state, nation, and world.
- Service, research and consultation with government, social agencies, community organizations, and other civic or private groups working to build a better society.

Criteria

The awards are presented to faculty with a sustained record of excellent accomplishments, over several years, that is above and beyond their normal job duties and documented impact in the creation of partnerships with businesses, schools, or communities; or initiatives that improve social or cultural understanding, or economic growth in ways that go beyond the ordinary expectations of faculty work. **Recipients are honored at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and an engraved plaque.**

Eligibility

- Only those with full-time faculty appointments are eligible to be nominated.
- A major part of the work on which each nomination is based must have been done while the nominee served at the University of Nebraska; ordinarily, a nominee will have been at the University of Nebraska for at least 10 years.
- Each nominee must still be actively involved in outreach and engagement with the state, region, or community as part of his or her work at the University.
- A nominee is eligible for three consecutive years and applications must be **updated and resubmitted** by the nominator each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again.
- In the event of the death of a candidate, eligibility for that deceased candidate will extend only to include the academic year in which he or she died. No eligibility will be carried forward to subsequent years.

Committee

The first screening of nominations will be done at the campus level. Each Chancellor will establish a campus process to select nominees that will be forwarded to an Awards Selection Committee. The selection procedure will emphasize the outstanding contributions made by nominees to enrich the broader community beyond the boundaries of the University.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9 2026.

The Provost appoints an Awards Selection Committee to review the campus-sanctioned nominations; the committee will submit its awardee recommendations to the Provost. This eight-member committee will consist of one faculty member from each campus and four community members from at least two different communities. Members of the committee serve staggered, three-year terms.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (IDEA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

1. **Nomination data entered in the online form** (see page 16).
2. **Letters from the nominator and seconder** summarizing and giving specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments in innovation, development, and engagement. Nominators can be faculty, community members, or alumni. The letters should clearly substantiate the state/regional/national significance of the nominee's work beyond the boundaries of the University, as well as the nominee's continued involvement in community leadership. No person should act as nominator or seconder for more than one nominee.
3. **A current curriculum vitae of the nominee.**
4. **Evidence of the nominee's most significant accomplishments.** Evidence to be considered might be letters from organizations or community leaders, publications, patents, honors, awards, programs delivered that impact economic development, applied research activities, service on community boards and committees, and other community activities.
5. **Names, addresses, emails, and telephone numbers of five peer reviewers** from outside the University of Nebraska system who have been asked by the nominator to provide letters in support of the nomination (see below).
6. Nominators and those submitting materials should consider that the selection committee consists of individuals with various disciplinary backgrounds and expertise, and should therefore **use language that relates to a wide audience.**



The 2025 IDEA winners:
Gina Ligon, Ph.D. (UNO) and Károly
Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D. (UNMC)

The nominators will contact the five peer reviewers listed in the online nomination form (number five above) to solicit support letters (see page 17).

These letters should be from the leaders of community, business, private, governmental, non-profit, cultural, or educational organizations from outside the University of Nebraska system. Each letter should include full contact information for its author.

The nominator is to share the text titled "Memorandum to Outside Reviewers" with each reviewer (page 17); the memorandum includes information about the award and guidelines to follow in writing letters of support.

***CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CONTACT OUTSIDE REVIEWERS IN AMPLE TIME SO THEY CAN EMAIL THEIR REPLIES PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE OF JAN. 9, 2026.**

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD (IDEA) NOMINATION DATA

▶▶▶ The IDEA award recognizes faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University in ways that have enriched the broader community.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

- 1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
- 2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
- 3. Click on “Add a New Application”.
- 4. Scroll to “President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Innovation, Development, and Engagement Award (IDEA)” (Competition ID# 1221).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominee:	Nominator:	Secunder ¹ :
Name	Name	Name
Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title	Full Professional Title
University of Nebraska Hire Date	Academic Area/Department	Academic Area/Department
Academic Area/Department	Campus	Campus
Campus	Campus Address and Zip	Campus Address and Zip
Campus Address and Zip	Campus Email	Campus Email
Campus Email	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)	Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)
Campus Phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX)		

IDEA Peer Reviewers (Information for five individuals)

- First Name
- Last Name
- Address
- Full Physical Address
- Email
- Telephone Number (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

List five reviewers from which the nominator will seek support letters (see page 15).

Upload a single PDF file with the following: (1) nominating letter, (2) seconding letter, (3) curriculum vitae of nominee, (4) evidence of nominee’s most significant accomplishments.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026.

¹You will be given the option to choose a secunder who is not affiliated with NU. If that is the case this information will change slightly.

MEMORANDUM TO OUTSIDE REVIEWERS FOR THE IDEA AWARD

- The following should be used to solicit peer review support letters. (A letterhead/PDF version is available on nuramp.nebraska.edu at the application step where nominees identify outside reviewers.)

**To: Outside Reviewers of Candidates for the University of Nebraska Innovation,
Development and Engagement Award (IDEA)**

From: IDEA Awards Selection Committee

Five letters of support from leaders of community, business, private, governmental, non-profit, cultural, or educational organizations from outside the University of Nebraska system are required for the nomination of a faculty member for the Innovation, Development and Engagement Award. This award has been established to recognize faculty who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University resulting in new developments that have strengthened the region or community economically, culturally, environmentally, or governmentally. Nominations are solicited from the campuses of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The recipients of the IDEA award are honored annually in the spring, and each are awarded \$10,000, a presidential medallion, and a plaque.

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of support on behalf of one of the professors who has been nominated for this prestigious award.

When writing your letter of support, keep in mind the following criteria: the awards are given for a sustained record of excellent accomplishments and documented impact in the creation of economic growth or partnerships with businesses, schools, or communities, or initiatives that improve social or cultural understanding, or commercialization of research and technology.

Please email your letters of support by Jan. 9, 2026 to:

Lori Robison
IDEA Awards Selection Committee
Office of the Provost
University of Nebraska
evpp@nebraska.edu

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Robison at: (402) 472-5242 or evpp@nebraska.edu.

INNOVATIONS IN STUDENT SUCCESS AWARD (ISSA)

►►► *Description*

The ISSA is presented each year in honor and recognition of a team effort (faculty led or with faculty involvement) that has made a unique and significant contribution to improving undergraduate six-year graduation rates. While the entire University is focused on improving student success, this award honors specific and successful innovations designed to improve retention and graduation rates among students the unit serves in a major, within a school, within a college, or throughout a campus.

The honored unit or team is awarded \$25,000. These funds may be used at the discretion of the awarded team in a way that will lead to additional improvements in undergraduate student success measures. For example, funds could be used to support development of new student success initiatives, support travel to a conference focused on improving student wellbeing, provide initial support for peer mentors, contribute to research that documents the efficacy of a trial innovation, or used to improve the physical surroundings of a student resource center.

The award will only be given when merited and need not be made in any given year.

**The ISSA is presented each year in honor and recognition
of a faculty led or faculty-involved team effort within a department,
school, or college at the University of Nebraska
that has made a unique and significant
contribution to improving student retention
and graduation rates.**

**The honored unit is recognized at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹,
is awarded \$25,000, an engraved plaque, and is featured on the
University of Nebraska website.**

Eligibility

The ISSA is designed to be given to a faculty led or faculty-involved team within a department, school, or college. While vitally important, designated “student success” units, whose primary responsibility is student support, are not eligible for award consideration.

- A nominee is eligible for three consecutive years, but applications must be **updated and resubmitted** by the nominator each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again.

Committee

Each Chancellor will establish a campus committee and a process to conduct the initial screening of nominations to select those to be forwarded to an Awards Selection Committee. The selection procedure of the screening committee will emphasize the outstanding contributions made by the team in achieving high or improving undergraduate student retention and graduation rates.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9, 2026.

The Provost appoints an Awards Selection Committee to review the nominations from the campuses; the committee will submit its recommendations to the Provost. The six-member committee comprises faculty nominated by the Academic Vice Chancellors, including two members from UNL and UNO and one from UNK and UNMC. Committee members will serve staggered, three-year terms.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (ISSA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

- **Nominating document.** The document shall be limited to 10 pages, and the text should not exceed 4,500 words. Although there is no formal prescribed format for the body of the nomination document, each nominated department/school/college should include a description of the entire undergraduate student population impacted by the student success innovation. For example, if a team has worked on improving a course, then the total number of students taking that course should be enumerated. Such descriptions should be both qualitative and quantitative. Impact/outcome measures should also be included and shall consist of baseline measures and post-intervention values (for example, quantitative measures might include retention rates in programs, 6-year graduation rates, reductions in class DFW rates, etc.). Evaluation guidelines will be flexible enough to accommodate the many ways faculty-led teams can improve student success in small and large settings, which can ultimately lead to improvements in 6-year graduation rates. For the purposes of this award, the total number of students impacted will not inherently be considered to have greater merit than the demonstrated successes of units that educate smaller numbers of students. The use of headings that match the criteria shown below are encouraged.
- **Nominations not conforming to documentation guidelines will not be considered.**

KEY CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN PREPARING AWARD NOMINATIONS (ISSA)

►►► The nomination materials should follow the format shown below. **We strongly encourage applicants to use applicable headings to organize their submitted materials.**

1. Describe the entire student population served by the department/school/college (as appropriate).
 - Describe the entire student population served by the innovation, if different from above.
2. Outline the specific student challenge(s) being addressed (for example, high DFW rates in particular courses, poor year two to year three retention rates, long time to degree, etc.) that ultimately impacts six-year graduation rates.
3. Describe the innovation(s) implemented that were designed to positively impact the student challenges outlined in section two.
4. Describe how the faculty-led team organized itself to implement the innovations.
5. Present data showing improvement(s) in or high student success measures as a result of the innovation.
6. Outline plans to sustain the effort.
7. Discuss how the team might use the award funds to support future student success efforts.



The 2025 ISSA Award winner: Goodrich Scholarship Program (UNO)

INNOVATIONS IN STUDENT SUCCESS AWARD (ISSA) NOMINATION DATA

▶▶▶ The ISSA recognizes unique and significant contributions to the student success efforts of the University of Nebraska.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
3. Click on “Add a New Application”.
4. Scroll to “President’s Excellence Awards 2026: Innovations in Student Success Award (ISSA)” (competition ID# 1216).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominated Department/School/College:

Name
Campus

Dean (even if the same as Administrator)

Name

Vice Chancellor:

Name

Department/School/College Administrator:

Name
Campus Email
Campus Phone

Chancellor:

Name

Pre- and Post-intervention Numbers, as Applicable

- Undergraduate Student Population (list totals in a course, major, services courses, etc.): number
- If course focused, DFW Rate for Entire Population Above: number
- If focused on a series of courses, DFW rate for the entire population above: value for each course
- Six-year graduation rate for undergraduate population above: number
- Other quantitative data: (optional)

Nominator Information

Name

Upload a single PDF file with the following:

Nominating document, limited to 10 pages/4,500 words.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING AWARD (UDTA)

►►► *Description*

One University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA) is presented each year in honor and recognition of a department/unit within the University of Nebraska that has made a unique and significant contribution to the teaching efforts of the University and that has outstanding *esprit de corps* in its dedication to the education of students at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional levels.

The honored department is awarded \$25,000. These funds may be used in whatever manner the department sees fit. For example, funds could be used to support travel to a conference of a pedagogical nature, purchase instructional equipment, or improve the physical surroundings of a classroom or student resource center. The faculty members of the chosen department are honored at an awards ceremony.

The UDTA award is presented each year in honor and recognition of a department/unit within the University of Nebraska that has made a unique and significant contribution to the teaching efforts of the University.

The honored department is recognized at the Board of Regents summer meeting¹, is awarded \$25,000, an engraved plaque, and is featured on the University of Nebraska website.

Eligibility

Most commonly, a teaching excellence award will be given to a department. However, because of the diverse programs within the University, there are instances in which the department is not the most appropriate unit for receiving an award (e.g., in some interdisciplinary or professional degree programs). While it will be possible for these programs to be considered for an award, it will be the responsibility of such units to make a defensible case for their inclusion. Non-departmental units should make a special effort to justify why their unit is appropriately included in the competition for this award. No programs will be excluded from consideration. Professional degree programs in fields such as law, architecture, and medicine will compete on equal footing with traditional baccalaureate and graduate degree programs. In the remainder of these guidelines, the term “department” refers to the nominated unit. Normally, nominated departments will be considered as a whole. For example, graduate and undergraduate missions would not be considered separately. However, if a nominated department believes it has a mission that merits special consideration, it may make such a request. Again, it will be the responsibility of such units to make a defensible case.

- A nominee is eligible for three consecutive years and applications must be **updated and resubmitted** by the nominator each year. At the end of three years, a one-year waiting period is required before a nominee is eligible to be nominated again.

Committee and Nominations

The first screening of nominations will be done at the campus level. Each Chancellor will establish a campus process to select nominees that will be forwarded to an Awards Selection Committee. The selection procedure of the screening committee will emphasize the outstanding contributions made by the department to the institution's dedication of educating students.

The campus-selected nominees must be emailed to Lori Robison at: evpp@nebraska.edu no later than Jan. 9, 2026.

The provost appoints an Awards Selection Committee to review the nominations from the campuses; the committee will submit its recommendations to the Provost. The six-member committee consists of faculty nominated by the Academic Vice Chancellors, including two members from UNL and UNMC and one from UNK and UNO. Committee members will serve staggered, three-year terms.

¹The 2026 ceremony will be held at the August Board of Regents meeting and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

NOMINATION MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS (UDTA)

►►► Nomination materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026. The website will prompt you for the following information:

1. **Nomination data** (see page 25).
2. **Nominating document.** The main body of the document will be limited to 10 pages and the text should not exceed 4,500 words. Although there is no formal prescribed format for the body of the nomination document, each nominated unit should include its history, role/mission, future plans, and strengths. Evaluation guidelines will be flexible enough to accommodate the many teaching missions across the University. It is not possible to specify inclusive criteria for teaching excellence that would apply to all departments or programs. **The use of headings that match the criteria shown on page 24 are encouraged.**

Within this framework, the general criterion should be the “instructional culture” of the nominated department (or another unit). “Instructional culture” implies an attitude toward teaching ingrained in the entire department. This should be reflected in many ways, including the regular program review process, outcome assessment data, and the program’s reputation outside the institution. Having a few “superstar” teachers is not sufficient to earn a nominated department the award. Instructional quality should be emphasized, not instructional quantity. Data such as student credit hours per full-time equivalent is inappropriate, except insofar as it shows that high quality is maintained in such a milieu. Key criteria to be considered when preparing the nomination are discussed on the following page.

Supporting materials not to exceed 30 pages to accommodate the difficult task of the Selection Committee.

Nominations exceeding documentation guidelines will not be considered.

Nominators and those submitting materials should consider that the selection committee consists of individuals with various disciplinary backgrounds and expertise, and should therefore **use language that relates to a wide audience.**



The 2025 UDTA winner:
Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders (UNL)

KEY CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN PREPARING AWARD NOMINATIONS (UDTA)

►►► The key criteria that should be followed in all nomination materials are provided below. These are meant to be heuristic; the list is not complete. Although most of the questions on the checklist are “generic,” it will be difficult for some units to answer all of them and there is no implication that every criterion will be appropriate to every unit. The list may be thought of as a set of possible criteria that should be considered, if appropriate. It is intended as a device to assist departments in preparing applications and defining their instructional cultures, and it is helpful to the awards selection committee during deliberations. **We strongly encourage applicants to use applicable headings to organize their submitted materials.** Non-departmental units applying for this award should make a special effort to justify why their unit is appropriately included in this competition.

1. **How do you demonstrate *esprit de corps*** in the dedication to the education of students?
2. **How does the nominated department use incentives** (promotion and tenure, salary increases, teaching awards, etc.) to encourage teaching excellence?
3. **What efforts does the nominated department make to develop good teaching** (colloquia, “teaching circles,” mentoring, graduate teaching assistant training, etc.)? How is your curriculum innovative? Identify and describe examples of innovative teaching within the unit. Include grant support specific to improved or innovative teaching.
4. **Do faculty participate in conferences**, etc., in which the primary focus is on instruction?
5. **What contribution does the nominated department make to scholarship on instruction** (research, textbooks, etc.)? What is the impact of these contributions?
6. **Is effective use made of new technologies** or methods in the classroom?
7. **What support is there for students** (advising, mentoring, honors programs, student association, internships, etc.)? Are students trained in the modes and styles of communication appropriate to the discipline?
8. **What is the quality of the major or program?** This may be assessed through accreditation programs, performance on national tests, graduate or professional school placement, employment, alumni surveys, student ratings, external reviews, student evaluations, testimonials, etc.
9. **What is the quality of the nominated department’s program for non-majors** (if applicable)? Is it taken seriously? Are experienced faculty involved? Are faculty rewarded for this work? Are there an adequate number of courses? Is the curriculum well planned? What reputation does it have with other departments? What are the results of student ratings, external review, testimonials, etc.?
10. **What is the quality of the graduate or professional program** (if applicable)? This may be assessed through such factors as accreditation, curriculum development, quality of student research, external support for research or professional service, student participation in national meetings, student publication, student employment after graduation, student ratings of the program, alumni surveys, external reviews, testimonials, etc.
11. **If part-time faculty, graduate teaching assistants, non-tenure-track instructors, etc., play a role** in the nominated department’s teaching, how are they brought into the “instructional culture”?
12. **What is the quality of teaching in “outreach” programs** or other off-campus activities that may be part of the department’s instructional mission?

UNIVERSITY-WIDE DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING AWARD (UDTA) NOMINATION DATA

►►► The UDTA award recognizes unique and significant contributions to the teaching efforts of the University of Nebraska.

Website to enter nomination data: nuramp.nebraska.edu

1. Use your campus credentials to log in to NuRamp.
2. Click on the three lines in the upper left corner of your screen and navigate to *Internal Competitions->Applications*
3. Click on “**Add a New Application**”.
4. Scroll to “**President’s Excellence Awards 2026: University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UDTA)**” (competition ID# 1222).

The website will prompt the nominator to enter the following information:

Nominated Department/Unit:

Name
Campus

Dean:

Name

Vice Chancellor:

Name

Chancellor:

Name

Department/Unit Administrator:

Name
Campus Email
Campus Phone

Number of Faculty in Nominated Department

Number of Graduate Teaching Assistants

Number of Students:

Undergraduate Majors

Number of Students:

Graduate Majors

Number of Students:

Professional Majors

Number of Students taking Service Courses

Outside Grant Support (Specifically tied to teaching/instruction)

Requirements for PDF Upload (Information only)

Nominator Information

Name

Upload a single PDF file with the following:

- (1) nominating document, limited to 10 pages/4,500 words, and
- (2) supporting materials, not to exceed 30 pages.

The nomination and all materials must be submitted via nuramp.nebraska.edu by Jan. 9, 2026.

QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- **For further information or clarification on awards and to request additional individuals be allowed access to assist with online award application/nomination materials, please contact:**

Lori Robison
Office of the Provost
University of Nebraska
3835 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0743
(402) 472-5242
evpp@nebraska.edu

This nomination packet is available at:

<https://nebraska.edu/president/faculty-engagement/presidents-excellence-awards>