DEAN’S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Each year the Dean of the School of Dentistry recognizes faculty members who have made valuable contributions to the School in the areas of scholarship, voluntary service and mentoring. The Dean’s Excellence Awards recognize faculty members who have been nominated by their colleagues and who exemplify professionalism and dedication to the School of Dentistry. Below are the descriptions of each award category and the processes for submitting an application.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship is defined as “serious formal study or research of a subject” (Merriam-Webster Learner’s Dictionary) and “knowledge resulting from study and research in a particular field” (American Heritage Dictionary). Traditionally, in academic institutions scholarship has focused primarily on research/discovery, excluding other areas in which a faculty member contributes to the educational mission of the institution. At the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, a broader, more inclusive definition has been embraced that includes the scholarship of teaching, application, integration, as well as discovery (Boyer 1997).

The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston Excellence Awards for Scholarship serve to recognize individual faculty members for their contributions in these four areas. These awards recognize individuals who have shown the ability to be active and reflective in their research, make connections between multiple and divergent areas, build bridges between theory and practice or engage in activities consistent with the scholarship of teaching and learning. They provide an opportunity for School of Dentistry faculty who meet designated standards of scholarship and excellence to receive recognition for their exemplary educational contributions to the school. Recipients of these awards will serve as distinguished educator role models for learners at all levels in the institution.

Award Definitions and Criteria
To be eligible for an award, individuals must meet one or more of the criteria listed below.

Scholarship of Application – “aid society and professions in addressing problems”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Serving as an external consultant to government or industry groups
- Assuming leadership roles in professional organizations
- Advising student leaders, fostering their professional growth
- Developing expanded community outreach activities
- Engaging students in service learning opportunities
- Presentation and/or leadership of continuing education courses
Scholarship of Discovery – “building new knowledge through research”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s research activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of research in a particular field
- Obtaining multiyear grant funding from major funding agencies
- Development of opportunities for the continuous exchange of ideas, strategies, and methods related to research within and outside
- Discovery of distinctive solutions to research problems faced by the School of Dentistry and our community
- Mentoring of those interested in research

Scholarship of Integration – “interpreting the use of knowledge across disciplines”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Preparing a comprehensive literature review
- Contributing to a textbook for use in multiple disciplines
- Collaborating with colleagues to design and deliver a core course
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of integration of all layers of teaching such as DDS/post-graduate courses and clinics
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of interdisciplinary teaching, including interprofessional education (IPE)
- Development of innovative strategies and methods of interdisciplinary research.
- Development of opportunities for the continuous exchange of ideas, strategies, and methods related to teaching and learning within the School of Dentistry, UTHealth, the Texas Medical Center, and externally such as journal clubs, case presentations, table clinics
- Discovery and publication of distinctive solutions to educational problems faced by the School of Dentistry and our community

Scholarship of Teaching – “study teaching models and practices to achieve optimal learning”.
- Making public beyond the School of Dentistry, the investigation, evaluation and outcome(s) of the faculty member’s scholarly activities through publication in national and international journals and presentations at local, national and international meetings
- Advancing learning theory through classroom research and publication
- Developing and/or testing new instructional materials and/or methods drawing upon “best practices” (i.e., instructional media, e-learning, lectures, texts, course syllabi, monograph)
- Development of a new course or an elective (or a major revision of existing courses) drawing from the literature and “best practices” in the field
- Mentoring students and colleagues to be critical thinkers and life-long learners
• Designing and/or implementing assessment systems, such as peer review of teaching or effectiveness of curricular change
• Contributing to “best practices in the field” by giving invited professional presentations or workshops at the local, national or international levels
• Presentation and/or leadership of continuing education courses
• Providing faculty development opportunities to enhance teaching and learning
• Development of innovative teaching or evaluation materials or methods such as novel uses of the simulation clinic, digital radiography, an automated response system or other instructional technology applications
• Provide evidence of advanced preparation for teaching such as:
  o Participation in the Health Educators Fellowship Program
  o Obtaining membership in The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education
  o Obtaining a graduate degree related to education in the health sciences
  o Participate in national conference workshops, symposia and panels related to teaching and learning*


Highest priority for the awards will be given to those faculty members who make their scholarship public. This can be accomplished through publications, presentations, workshops, CE, or consultation to other departments within the school, but especially to external audiences, such as ADEA, AADR, IADR or other professional organizations.

Being a recipient of the award will be viewed positively in promotion and tenure decisions.

Recipients of these awards will be given a five-year membership in the School of Dentistry’s Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Membership will allow awardees to:

• Participate in annual Academy events (e.g., celebration reception)
• Serve as mentor to junior faculty and other leadership opportunities
• Collaborate with the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs to provide timely workshops related to teaching and learning of need and interest to School of Dentistry faculty
• Expand research opportunities by participating in educational studies of the teaching and learning environment
• Receive direct communication from the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs about important educational issues and events

In addition, a cash award along with a certificate will be given to the awardees at the School of Dentistry’s Annual Faculty Retreat.
Process and Documentation for the Dean’s Excellence in Scholarship Awards

1. The Dean or designee calls for nominations in the spring of each year.

2. Nominations for awards can be made by a team of two faculty members from any department; the Departmental Annual Review Committee; the Department Chair, or a Senior Administrator (see number 5 below).
   - All nominations should be guided by the criteria listed above.
   - Faculty may not nominate themselves for these awards.
   - A faculty member may only be nominated for one award annually.

3. Full time and part-time faculty members who satisfy the criteria are eligible for these awards.

4. Required documentation
   Each person or group who nominates a faculty member must write a statement detailing the faculty member’s scholarly accomplishments related to one of the four categories of the Dean’s Excellence in Scholarship Awards (no more than one page).

   Nominees must submit a one-two page written statement of his or her scholarly accomplishments and provide supporting documentation. No award will be granted without this supporting documentation.
   - For the Scholarship of Discovery award, although the full body of work may be considered, emphasis will be placed on the last five (5) years of research activity. Supporting documents should include student/post-graduate evaluation of research and student/post-graduate recognition of achievement.
   - For the Scholarship of Application, Integration and Teaching Awards preference will be given to projects completed during the last academic year. Peer, student and post-graduate evaluations of teaching must be included, as well as the most recent Annual Activity Report and Faculty Development Plan.
   - All nominees must submit their current Curriculum Vitae.

5. The Department Chair of the nominee will review all nominations that are provided by:
   - a team of two faculty members from the nominee’s department;
   - a team of two faculty members that includes a faculty member from the department and another faculty member from another department;
   - the Departmental Annual Review Committee; or
   - a School of Dentistry Senior Administrator

   The Department Chair may offer an opinion. However, all nominations from the Departmental Annual Review Committee with supporting documentation will be forwarded to the Dean for final consideration.

7. All complete nominations (including the appropriate nomination form at the end of this document) will be submitted to the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation
Committee (FD&E) for peer review in collaboration with the Dean. Based upon the review, up to two winners in each of the categories will be chosen.

8. A faculty member who receives an award in one of the four award areas (and automatically becomes a member of the Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Educators) will not be eligible for that award for the next four years. However, he or she will be eligible for any of the other three awards during the next award cycle.
DEAN’S EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER FACULTY

Award Definition and Criteria

Individuals who provide voluntary service to the School of Dentistry bring valuable expertise to our educational programs. This award will honor a faculty member who has consistently volunteered his/her time in supporting and sustaining the mission of the School of Dentistry in the areas of the Scholarship of Application, Scholarship of Integration, or Scholarship of Teaching.

Process and Documentation for the Excellence Award for Volunteer Faculty

Volunteer faculty will be eligible for nomination using the same criteria, documentation, and selection processes described above for the Excellence Awards for Scholarship. To be eligible for this award, individuals must meet one or more of the criteria listed for those categories.

Recipients of this award will be given a five-year membership in the School of Dentistry’s Dean’s Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Membership will allow awardees to:

- Participate in annual Academy events (e.g., celebration reception)
- Serve as mentor to junior faculty and other leadership opportunities
- Collaborate with the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs to provide timely workshops related to teaching and learning of need and interest to School of Dentistry faculty
- Expand research opportunities by participating in educational studies of the teaching and learning environment
- Receive direct communication from the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs about important educational issues and events

A cash award along with a certificate will be given to the awardee during the School of Dentistry’s Annual Faculty Retreat.
DEAN’S EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR MENTORING

Award Definition and Criteria

A good mentor can be critical to the success of a faculty member. The mentor plays many roles – a host and guide, an exemplary role model of professional behavior, a teacher and a trusted counselor. Effective mentoring does not happen accidentally – it occurs through dedicated actions on the part of the mentor and mentee. This award will be presented to a faculty member who has demonstrated commitment to and effectiveness in faculty mentoring.

To be eligible for the Excellence Award for Mentoring, mentors and mentees must submit a Mentoring Relationship Notification Form to the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs. In addition, the mentor must have mentored the mentee for the past year prior to nomination (at a minimum) and the mentor must be a faculty member at the initiation of the mentoring relationship.

Chairs, vice chairs, and deans, because mentoring is an expectation of their jobs, are not eligible for nomination. Any faculty member who was not a chair, vice chair, or dean for the majority of the mentoring relationship, but who recently became such is eligible for nomination. Previous award winners are not eligible for nomination when working with the same mentee, however, they are eligible when mentoring another mentee.

Process and Documentation for the Excellence Award for Mentoring

A one-page nomination letter providing a brief description of the qualities of the mentor as well as strong evidence of how the mentor has assisted the mentee in developing as a faculty member must be submitted to the Office of Professional Development & Faculty Affairs. The Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee and the Associate Dean for Professional Development & Faculty Affairs will evaluate the nominees and make a recommendation to the Dean.

A cash award along with a certificate will be given to the awardee during the School of Dentistry’s Annual Faculty Retreat.

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014
Technical Revision to Volunteer Faculty Award: 3/6/2014
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston

Nomination for

Dean’s Excellence Award for the Scholarship of Application

Faculty Name:

Type of Degree/s:

Academic Rank:

Department Affiliation:

Criteria:

The nominee, ________________________ meets the Criteria and has provided evidence and/or demonstrated the descriptors of the Scholarship of Application award in the following ways:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________  ____________________  ______
Department Chair’s Name                  Department Chair’s Signature       Date

Department Chair’s Comments (optional):

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston

Nomination for

Dean’s Excellence Award for the Scholarship of Discovery

Faculty Name:
Type of Degree/s:
Academic Rank:
Department Affiliation:

Criteria:
The nominee, ________________________ meets the Criteria and has provided evidence and/or demonstrated the descriptors of the Scholarship of Discovery award in the following ways:

__________________________
__________________________     ___________

Department Chair’s Name Department Chair’s Signature Date

Department Chair’s Comments (optional):

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston

Nomination for

Dean’s Excellence Award for the Scholarship of Integration

Faculty Name:
Type of Degree/s:
Academic Rank:
Department Affiliation:

Criteria:
The nominee, ________________________ meets the Criteria set forth and has provided evidence and/or demonstrated the descriptors of the Scholarship of Integration in the following ways:

__________________________     ___________

Department Chair’s Name  Department Chair’s Signature  Date

Department Chair’s Comments (optional):

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston

Nomination for

Dean’s Excellence Award for the Scholarship of Teaching

Faculty Name:

Type of Degree/s:

Academic Rank:

Department Affiliation:

Criteria:

The nominee, ________________________ meets the Criteria and has provided evidence and/or demonstrated the descriptors of the Scholarship of Teaching award in the following ways:

Department Chair’s Name               Department Chair’s Signature               Date

Department Chair’s Comments (optional):

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014
The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston

Nomination for

Dean’s Excellence Award for Volunteer Faculty

Faculty Name:

Type of Degree/s:

Academic Rank:

Department Affiliation:

Criteria:

The nominee, ________________________ meets the Criteria and has provided evidence and/or demonstrated the descriptors of the Excellence Award for Volunteer Faculty in the following ways:

_________________________________  __________________________
Department Chair’s Name            Department Chair’s Signature

Department Chair’s Comments (optional):

Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee: 11/14/2013
Approved by the School of Dentistry Faculty Senate: 1/9/2014
Approved by the School of Dentistry Administrative Council: 1/13/2014