



Spring Convocation Award Narrative

Name: **WOMEN'S FACULTY CAUCUS DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD**

Description: This award is intended to recognize extraordinary efforts in mentoring women faculty in the university, and particularly junior faculty members both prior to and beyond tenure. The award will be presented to an individual who has contributed substantially to the career development of one or more women faculty members.

Purpose

Successful mentoring is a crucial dimension of developing and retaining faculty members. Ongoing mentoring relationships contribute to the happiness and success of female faculty members by helping them negotiate the promotion and tenure process and the path to full professor, by encouraging their research and teaching activities, and providing support and role models for healthy work-life integration. This award is a way of formally celebrating the commitment, particularly to mentoring junior women faculty members, of many senior faculty members as part of their informal service to the university.

What is a mentor?

A mentor is a person who creates a supportive environment that fosters a protégée's realization of long- and short-term professional and life goals. A mentor helps facilitate access to institutional resources, helps a protégée develop a network of relationships that can contribute to her success, and guides successful navigation of the university system. Mentoring plays an important role not only in promoting the success of individual faculty members but also in fostering community among scholars at Montana State University.

Eligibility: All faculty members who have dedicated time and energy to outstanding mentoring of women faculty members are eligible

Sponsor: Women's' Faculty Caucus

Award Amount: \$2,000

Selection Criteria:

- Evaluation of the nominees mentoring activities and skills when mentoring women faculty, particularly junior faculty members both prior to and beyond tenure.

Nomination Materials

Nomination letters should be no longer than two pages. Letters should include the full name and position of the nominee and the nominator, a detailed and specific description of the nominee's mentoring activities and skills, and an explanation of the difference this made in the nominator's career. Criteria for selecting the honoree will include depth (i.e. profound efforts and effects), breadth (e.g., mentoring multiple women), and effectiveness (e.g., successfully mentoring women with career obstacles) of mentoring efforts.

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