

# TRUSTEES' TEACHING AWARD

## 2019–2020

### Background

In June 2000, the Trustees of Indiana University reviewed the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award (TERA) which had been established by the trustees in 1997. The review process considered surveys of faculty across the campuses of IU and resulted in a series of recommended changes. The trustees formally replaced TERA with the Trustees' Teaching Award (TTA) in June 2000 and amended the new award in January and February 2001. In February 2015 and 2019, the award was again amended by the University Faculty Council.

### Guidelines

The TTA is to be awarded before the completion of each academic year to tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty whose primary duty is teaching and who have demonstrated that they are outstanding teachers. However, this award is not to be construed as sufficient evidence of sustained teaching excellence by awardees and review committees. A cash award of \$2,500 will be given to each faculty member and awards will be disseminated to no more than 6 percent of the total eligible faculty in each of the three categories. A faculty member who receives the reward in a given year will not be eligible for the award until two years have passed.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty and librarians engaged in teaching are eligible including faculty in the School of Medicine who may be located at medical centers or be paid by institutions other than Indiana University (e.g., IU Health Physicians, Eskenazi, VA). Each academic unit is responsible for setting criteria and developing a selection process for the TTA within these general guidelines. Each unit has been assigned a proportionate number of the total campus awards and will select the faculty to receive awards within the unit.

The TTA honors individuals who have a positive impact on learning through the direct teaching of students, especially undergraduates. Award recipients must have demonstrated a sustained level of teaching excellence in the form of documented student learning and must have completed at least three years of service at IUPUI to be eligible (thus, faculty in their third year at IUPUI at the time the selection is being made would not be eligible). Eligible individuals automatically will be considered each year without special application or nomination by relying on the Academic Insight report as the means to provide required documentation.

**DOCUMENTATION:** The Academic Insight report should ordinarily be the basis of making decisions regarding actual awards. All eligible faculty are to be considered within their schools without special application—hence, the use of the Academic Insight report. Up to a maximum of three additional pages may be added to document teaching excellence at the unit's discretion, but the objective of focusing documentation on existing evidence should be preserved. Increasingly, however, documentation should include evidence of student learning. Extra burdens on faculty, review committees, and deans should be kept to a minimum. The guidelines were developed by a campus advisory committee to provide some consistency across diverse academic programs but required documentation will be determined by each academic unit. These recommended factors should be considered, but not all of them may be equally applicable in all units. While some persons who are selected for the TTA may not meet all of the criteria or offer evidence to document achievement in a particular area, there is an expectation that such items will be considered in selecting individual recipients.

**SELECTION:** Ordinarily, an existing school or departmental faculty committee is to be responsible for administering the award process. Committees should be composed substantially of faculty peers and faculty should be consulted about the method of composing the committee. Once identified, the committee should use the criterion of excellence in teaching as the primary factor for selection. It is the responsibility of this selection committee to review the documentation relating to teaching for each faculty member; to select those faculty members who best meet the university, campus, and school criteria; and to recommend the winners to the academic dean who will be responsible for making the final determination and for presenting the award on behalf of the trustees.

**DEADLINE:** Each school should complete its selection process and report the selected names by completing the online TTA Recipient Reporting Form **no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020**. Schools may establish earlier deadlines as necessary to meet this campuswide requirement.

**FREQUENCY:** The Indiana University Faculty Council amended the guidelines to require the waiting period for eligibility for the award to be increased to two years after receipt of a TTA award. Accordingly, a faculty member who receives the reward in a given year will not be eligible for the award until two years have passed. Faculty remain subject to school-specific determinations and may receive multiple TTA awards during their tenure at IUPUI, but only one award may be received by an individual in any year.

**THE AWARD:** Each award will be \$2,500. The award takes the form of a cash supplement and is not added to the recipient's base salary. The award is subject to income tax withholding. Each school is responsible for creating the e-docs which will pay recipients; the e-docs should be completed and submitted no later than May 31, 2020.

**NOTIFICATION:** Schools should formally notify their selected recipients by March 2, 2020.

**RECOGNITION:** Beginning in 2019, the TTA recipients will be celebrated outside the Chancellor's Academic Honors Convocation. Each unit should establish an appropriate public occasion when TTA recipients can be recognized and awards presented. The occasion might be a special reception or part of a school faculty meeting, but there should be a public announcement of the occasion and an opportunity for peers to attend. In addition, TTA recipients will be celebrated in an article in *Inside IUPUI*.

Each academic unit will develop an appropriate plaque where the names of TTA recipients can be permanently recorded and displayed. This plaque will be hung in an area where both students and faculty peers will see the display.

If you have a particularly outstanding faculty member, consider nominating them for an IUPUI or IU teaching award. (IUPUI awards and a link to the IU awards website can be found on this [web page](#)).

**IUPUI**  
**Documentation Guidelines for**  
**Trustees' Teaching Award**

Please use the individual faculty member's Academic Insight report as the basis for determining recipients. This standard annual report may be supplemented by up to three additional pages of documentation. As you consider candidates, please note each of the following items that may be useful in assessing candidates. The annual report and supplementary pages should provide the necessary evidence for judging candidates on these criteria through a careful summary of student and peer testimony as well as the candidate's own report of activities, awards, and accomplishments.

Facilitates student learning through use of teaching strategies that

- Are based on sound pedagogical and content knowledge
- Engage students through collaborative learning, service learning, or other active learning methods appropriate to the context
- Provide students with timely feedback and assessment
- Encourage critical thinking
- Provide appropriate challenge
- Help entry-level students adjust to university life
- Employ technology effectively
- Promote diverse perspectives
- Help students with special needs
- Create connections between classroom and life experiences
- Display general characteristics of effective teaching such as organization, clarity, fairness; and enthusiasm, creativity, and flexibility

Provides leadership on teaching and learning issues through such activities as

- Participating in curriculum planning and/or new course development
- Serving on committees relevant to teaching/learning issues
- Presenting workshops on teaching topics
- Serving as a consultant or mentor to others
- Leading professional association activities on teaching in the discipline
- Publishing on the scholarship of teaching and learning
- Presenting on teaching topics at conferences

Pursues professional development opportunities in teaching through such activities as

- Attending workshops, meetings, and conferences on teaching
- Working with a peer or consultant on teaching development
- Obtaining grants to pursue the scholarship of teaching
- Engaging in individual or group scholarship or reflective activity on teaching