

**Bureau of Educational Research Endowment
Distinguished Scholar & Distinguished Senior Scholar
University of Illinois College of Education
2012-2013**

Each year the College of Education awards the title of Distinguished Scholar or Distinguished Senior Scholar to select members of the faculty who have distinguished themselves in their scholarly accomplishments. **Nominations are due Friday, March 16, 2012 using the online submission system.**

The Nature of the Award. Two awards will be given in 2012. One will be designated for Distinguished Scholar (\$1,500) and the other for Distinguished Senior Scholar Award (\$2,500). Recipients will receive a modest stipend to support their future research. Funds will be deposited in a research account for their use. Additionally, their names will be added to the Distinguished College Scholars plaque in the north lobby and they will be recognized at our College Convocation. The Scholars will also offer a college-wide lecture in the Bureau of Educational Research Seminar Series during the year in which they receive the award.

Criteria. The awards are based solely upon criteria of scholarly quality, significance, and productivity. Productivity is indexed by the volume of published books, book chapters, and refereed articles in one's field, as well as the duration and consistency of one's scholarly performance over a period of time. External funding for scholarship also will be considered. Aside from sheer numbers, however, the award also recognizes the quality, influence, and significance of a candidate's scholarship and impact in their fields of expertise. Suitable questions to ask in evaluating quality and significance include:

- ... Does the individual's work find its way into the **very best outlets** in the field?
- ... Is the work **highly regarded** by peers?
- ... How has this person's scholarship **advanced** or **changed the field**?
- ... What **conceptual and theoretical advances** are evident in this scholarship?
- ... What **methodological advances** are evident in this scholarship?
- ... Is the scholarship **programmatic, sustained, and cumulative**?
- ... Given that appropriate external funds are available for this form of scholarship, has the individual applied for and received substantive external support?
- ... Has this scholarship opened up **new areas of inquiry**?
- ... How has this scholarship **influenced educational practices and policy**?

Eligibility. Faculty *within the first 10 years* of finishing their terminal degree, are eligible for the Distinguished Scholar Award. Faculty *beyond 10 years* of finishing their terminal degree, are eligible for the Distinguished Senior Scholar Award. Individuals who have already received the Distinguished Scholar award are also eligible for the Distinguished Senior Scholar award after

they have passed the 10-year mark. The criteria for selection at these two levels are much the same, but they are calibrated against different reference groups.

Nomination and Selection Procedures. Nominations can come from the candidate, the candidate's department, or any colleague within the college. The letter of nomination should be written by someone who knows the candidate's work very well and can speak in an informed way about its impact and visibility within the field.

- ... **Letters of nomination** should bear the burden of proof that a candidate's record is "distinguished" according to the criteria cited earlier.
- ... **The curriculum vitae** that accompanies an application should conform to the same basic format used for College promotion and tenure applications (i.e., those sections documenting scholarship and professional service).
- ... **Two representative publications** should be included.
- ... **Two letters of support**, one of which must be from outside the University of Illinois, from scholars in this research area who could comment on the quality and impact of the work.

Applications will be submitted through the online system instead of hard copies to the Bureau of Educational Research. Details are available on the Bureau website, at <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/ber/resward.html> under College Research Awards. No late applications will be accepted. Only complete applications will be reviewed.

The College Research Committee will then undertake a thorough review and selection process and make recommendations to the Dean, who, in consultation with the College Executive Committee, will make the final selection of award winners.

Past recipients are listed online at:

http://education.illinois.edu/ber/distinguished_scholars_previous.html

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