**Florida Atlantic University**
**Distinguished Mentor of the Year (DMOY) Award Guidelines**

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry invites nominations for the Distinguished Mentor of the Year award (DMOY): Excellence in undergraduate research mentorship. Each year, one university-wide DMOY is awarded based on the undergraduate research engagement in the previous year. The Distinguished Mentor of the Year is recognized with a $2,500 award at the annual Honors Convocation.

## Eligibility

- Any permanent, full-time faculty including tenured/tenure track faculty, non-tenured faculty, instructors, multi-year appointees, scientists/scholars, and research faculty who have been employed for one continuous year.
- Faculty must have engaged as direct mentors of students in undergraduate research and inquiry, to include co-curricular (e.g. grants, SURF/REU, publications, presentations), curricular (e.g. Research Intensive (RI) Courses, DIR), as well as individual and group student mentoring.
- Previous award winners are no longer eligible.

## Timeline

**January 12, 2026:** Call for faculty applications/nominations
**February 2, 2026:** Complete applications due to the Deans/Directors office
**February 16, 2026:** Deans submit College nominee and application materials to OURI
**February 23, 2026:** Faculty Honors and Awards committee begin review
**March 6, 2026:** Honors and Awards Committee selects 2026 Awardee
**April 15, 2026:** Award presented at the Honors Convocation

## Process

- Complete nominations are submitted directly to the dean/designee and contain the information outlined in the guidelines below. Deadline date for submission is ***February 2, 2026.***
- **Self-nominations are encouraged.**
- Each dean/director/designee will determine the nominee from the College, ideally through review by a college committee.
- The College will send forward its nominee by submitting a formal letter of recommendation from the Dean or College designee as well as the faculty's complete application package to Ms. Patricia Sampedro (psampedr@fau.edu) from OURI. Deadline date for College nominations to OURI is ***February 16, 2026****.*
- OURI will share College nominees with FAU's Honors and Awards Committee, who will review all College nominations, and select one faculty to be awarded the DMOY award.

- The Distinguished Mentor of the Year will be recognized with a $2,500 award and a plaque presented at the Annual Honors Convocation.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The evaluation is based on the quality and quantity of undergraduate research mentorship conducted by the FAU faculty member over the past one-three years as evidenced by:

1. Dean's nomination letter
2. Application material provided, which should highlight evidence of undergraduate research mentorship, impact on undergraduate research culture at FAU, and outcomes of undergraduate research mentorship including but not limited to: Number of RI designated courses taught; Peer-reviewed publications, articles, presentations, books, exhibitions including an undergraduate as an author/co-author, presenter/co-presenter etc.; service to support undergraduate research or the culture of undergraduate research
3. Letters from current or past undergraduate mentees

**Nomination/Application Guidelines**

- All materials should be submitted via email as a single PDF file to the appropriate college contact.
- All materials submitted should highlight the undergraduate research mentorship the faculty conducted within the last three years
- Nomination applications should be organized according to the following categories.

1. A Personal statement (max 2 pages) that includes
   a. Statement of undergraduate student mentorship philosophy
   b. Evidence of your undergraduate research mentorship
   c. Impact of undergraduate research on the culture of FAU
2. Two letters of support from undergraduate students' research mentees. These may be written from the curricular or co-curricular research perspective (max one page each)
3. A current *curriculum vitae* highlighting evidence of all undergraduate research and inquiry student involvement, including co-curricular student mentorship, curricular, service, and other undergraduate-research-related activities.
4. Final College nominations should also include a letter of nomination from the College Dean/Director.

More information: Distinguished Undergraduate Research and Inquiry Mentor of the year Award | Florida Atlantic University (fau.edu) or Email: ouri@fau.edu