

Excellence in Mentoring Award

As primary advisors, co-advisors and members of student thesis and dissertation committees, faculty provide intellectual guidance and foster the development of essential skills in support of students' development as scholars, teachers and professionals. The Excellence in Mentoring Award is presented annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated considerable mastery of the broad spectrum of activities associated with outstanding mentoring of graduate students of the School of Marine Science.

This award is made possible with support from the VIMS Dean & Director and Associate Dean of Academic Studies. The award will be presented at the annual VIMS Award Ceremony in May each year.

Award Eligibility: Any faculty member who directly mentors graduate students in the School of Marine Science as a major advisor, co-major advisor, or member of a thesis or dissertation committee may be nominated.

Nomination Process: Any current School of Marine Science graduate student or a former student who has graduated within the last two years may make a nomination. Nominations must follow the guidelines below. The nomination package is submitted to the VIMS Award Committee by the **second deadline**.

Instructions for Creating a Nomination:

A nomination package will include:

- A cover sheet with the name of the nominee and the list of contributors and their affiliations.
- At least two letters of support from graduate students or recent alumni (graduated within past 5 years) who have benefited from mentoring by the nominated faculty member.
 - More than two letters from individual students/alumni are allowed. Individual letters will carry greater weight than a single letter signed by multiple students.
 - Letters should offer specific examples of exceptional mentoring and the impact of that mentoring on the student. For general guidance on what to consider, refer to the attached table which summarizes the aspects of mentoring the student review committee considered for last year's nominations.
- A letter of support from the nominated faculty member's department chair. If the nominated faculty member is a department chair, a letter will be provided by the Associate Dean of Academic Studies.
- The nomination package is submitted to the VIMS Award Committee as a single PDF file. Name the file as follows: LastName_FirstName_2019_Mentoring_Award

Review Process: Only nominations submitted to the VIMS Award Committee by the Award Committee's submission deadline will be considered. A committee consisting of five members of the VIMS Graduate Student Association, with at least one representative from each department, will review all nominations and will recommend no more than three unranked nominations to the VIMS Dean & Director, via the Associate Dean of Academic Studies, for final review and selection.

Questions regarding this award should be directed to Linda Schaffner, Associate Dean of Academic Studies (ad-as@vims.edu).

Excellence in Mentoring Award Review

(developed by the 2018 review committee – Kristen Bachand, Andrew Johnson, Michelle Onofrio, Brianna Stanley and Kelley Uhlig)

Aspects to consider in the application in order to remove personal biases.

- Application Completeness
 - Department Chair Letter
 - At least 2 student support letters
- General Mentoring Aspects
 - Supportive
 - Availability (presence)
- Intellectual Guidance
 - Availability/response
 - Time investment
 - Critical Review (Constructive feedback)
 - Engaging Discussion
 - Opening opportunities
 - Work life balance
- Essential Skills
 - Experimental Design
 - Lab Skills (Instrumentation)
 - Preparing Communication
 - Publications
 - Posters
 - Talks
 - Outreach
 - Reviews
 - Networking

Rank each applicant based on total application with 6 being the highest rank. Following discussion, the group will vote for the top 3 to pass forward.