COAS Award for the Enhancement of Learning – Description

The College of Arts and Sciences Award for the Enhancement of Learning is given annually to a member of the COAS faculty in recognition of accomplishment resulting from a single activity, project, or course, to encourage innovative teaching and learning experiences. Examples include:

a. specific course modifications or curriculum development
b. new methods for dealing with extraordinary teaching/learning situations such as large enrollments or special audiences
c. innovative laboratory experiences

All full- and part-time COAS faculty are eligible. The sum of $500 will be given to the recipient's department to be used by the recipient for materials, supplies, travel, or in any other way that will further enhance learning. The recipient will receive a plaque indicating the award and activity, and the recipient will give a presentation to faculty and students describing the activity and its significance.

Nominations will be accepted from any faculty member. Faculty may nominate themselves. The nomination statement should not exceed two typed, double-spaced pages and must include:

a. a statement of the need the activity addressed

   *On what basis was the design or approach to teaching selected? What needs or objectives of the candidate’s course/program were addressed and how? Describe the pedagogical justification for the approach.*

b. a description of the activity
c. unique features of the activity
d. the date the activity was undertaken and if the activity is ongoing
e. objective evidence of how learning was enhanced

   *Supporting materials may include the following: examples of student work or projects (with permission of student); presentations of student research; learning materials generated by candidate (with analysis/discussion of effects on student learning); letters from departmental chairs, peer reviewers or colleagues of team-taught courses; publications analyzing the validity and effectiveness of the approach/activity.*

   *All materials should help demonstrate how learning was enhanced.*

f. names of colleagues or students able to provide evaluative statements

The deadline for nominations to the COAS office is mid February. The winner will be chosen by a three-member committee appointed by the Dean. Nominees may be requested to provide a demonstration of the activity or project. The winner will be announced in March.

Individuals may win the award more than once if different activities are involved.

Reference: A&S Faculty Document 89-10 (approved 2-26-90)