

September 15, 2017

TO: Faculty Colleagues

FR: Joyce E. McConnell
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs



RE: **2017-2018 BENEDUM DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARDS**

I am pleased to call your attention to the announcement of the annual **Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards** competition. The details for nomination and application procedures, judging processes, and presentation follow this memo. This information can also be found at <http://faculty.wvu.edu/files/d/c68531a9-212c-45a2-96a1-527e438aa03c/2016-17-benedum-distinguished-scholar-awards.pdf>. Please note that applications for nominations for this award are due by the end of the business day on November 17, 2017. I hope you will take the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of your colleagues and on your own accomplishments and submit an application or nomination on behalf of those you deem most worthy to receive this distinguished award.

Please note that for 2017-2018 candidates may be nominated in the following four broad areas of endeavor: *Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biosciences and Health Sciences, Humanities and the Arts (including the Performing Arts), and Physical Sciences and Technology*. These awards are valued at \$5,000 in professional support.

We are extremely grateful to the University's Distinguished Professors for providing leadership in the establishment of this award and to the Claude-Worthington Benedum Foundation for their continued financial support.

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize and reward faculty who exemplify a distinction in research, scholarship or creative activity. If you need additional information, please contact C. B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel at cbwilson@mail.wvu.edu or his assistant, Donna Pancoast at dmpancoast@mail.wvu.edu.

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attachment

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2017 - 2018
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
BENEDUM DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards recognize distinction in research, scholarship or creative activity. (Hereafter, all references to "research" in this document are meant to include scholarship and creative activity.) Distinction may be reflected in either a single recent achievement in research, or an extended and still ongoing career of distinguished research. Awards of \$5,000 in professional support will be available, with the possibility of four awards each year – one in each of the four areas of endeavor. Awards will not be made in any category for which a suitable candidate is not found. The awards are funded with resources provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Criterion

The sole criterion for judgment is recognition of excellence in creative research. Creative research is expressed in ways unique to different areas of endeavor, thereby rendering meaningful comparisons across areas exceptionally difficult. Nevertheless, distinction can be recognized and evaluated on the basis of standards of the specific discipline or disciplines to which the research pertains. Toward this end, the disciplines are divided primarily into the four broad areas of endeavor listed below.

- a. Behavioral and Social Sciences
- b. Biosciences and Health Sciences
- c. Humanities and the Arts (including the Performing Arts)
- d. Physical Sciences and Technology

Examples of research include (a) developing new information, (b) critically examining new and/or old information, (c) writing scholarly essays, and (d) creative works (e.g., novels, plays, works of art, artistic performance). These four examples are not exhaustive. For the first three examples and similar research, the reports of the work must be intended for a professional readership, the reports must be available to the intended readership through publication in refereed journals or in books, and the work must significantly extend the boundaries of knowledge in the discipline or disciplines to which it pertains. For the fourth example and similar research, the material must be widely available to the intended audience through production in an appropriate medium; the critique of the work should be by professionals; the rigor with which the work is judged should be similar to candidates engaged in "traditional" research; and the candidate should show evidence of creating rather than simply re-creating. Artistic performance must be informed by documented creative research.

Judging "excellence in creative research" will include (but will not be limited to) evidence that (1) the work presented must be of demonstrably high quality as

measured by its author's reputation among his/her peers; (2) the work presented must have attracted national/international attention; and (3) the work presented must be seen as having an influence upon the discipline with which it is associated.

Awards will be made without regard for departmental or disciplinary affiliation, core area, or type of research. An award for distinction in the area of the Humanities and the Arts, for example, could be earned by a member of a science department, and an award for distinction in Physical Sciences and Technology could be earned by a member of a humanities department. The areas identified above are areas of scholarly distinction rather than areas of faculty appointment.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee consists of present and emeritus faculty holding distinguished professorships (Benedum, Centennial, named chairs, etc.) in the University, as well as selected past recipients of the awards. The Committee will have recourse to external assistance and advice in reviewing the nomination and application documents.

Eligibility for Award

All faculty members holding a continuing appointment, at any rank, including those serving in administrative positions, are eligible for the award upon nomination or application for consideration.

Period Covered by Award

Creative scholarly distinction may be reflected in a single achievement or in an extended, ongoing career. For a single achievement, the period covered by the award is the past three years; for a career, the period covered is not limited but the career must include activity within the past three years. Normally, one's record produced while at WVU will be given strong consideration.

Award Ceremonies

Recipients will be recognized at the University Honors Dinner in spring 2016. Each recipient will also present a public lecture. The lecture will be followed by a reception honoring the recipient.

Nomination/Application Procedures

Deadline for Nominations and Applications. One hard copy original and one electronic version must be submitted by the end of the business day on Friday, November 17, 2017. The electronic version should be e-mailed to dmpancoast@mail.wvu.edu. The original hard copy version should be hand-delivered or mailed to Dr. C.B. Wilson, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, 210 Stewart Hall, PO Box 6203 (Attention: Donna M. Pancoast). Any books, discs, pamphlets, publications, etc. need only to be submitted with the original hard copy version of the nomination packet. Any

nomination packet that is incomplete at the deadline date will be returned unevaluated. In addition, all candidates should be made aware that they are being nominated for the Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award.

Limit on Eligibility. The recipient of an award is not eligible for a future award for research on the same topic. Although the same research cannot merit more than one of these awards, different research by the same person is eligible, and therefore, a person is eligible for more than one award.

Because the same research cannot earn more than one award, only one award can be made for collaborative work. One of the collaborators may be nominated or may apply for the award, or the collaborators may be jointly nominated or may jointly apply.

In the former case, the nominee or applicant should be the major contributor, and a statement of the proportional contribution he or she made to the work is to be included. In the latter case, the collaborators will share the award, if an award is made, but no collaborator will be eligible unless he or she holds a continuing appointment as a faculty member at West Virginia University.

Nominators need not be West Virginia University faculty members, but in any case, nominations must include all the required documents in order to be considered.

Required Documents. Each nomination and application **must include** the following documents:

1. Cover sheet. The cover sheet **must** specifically identify one disciplinary area for which the nominee is to be considered.
2. Table of contents. The table of contents should identify materials submitted as part of the required support documentation.
3. A description of the research that is to be considered.
4. The reasons for considering it outstanding, including its context (e.g., the nature and scope of the scientific, social, or other problem addressed; the place of the research in the development of science, society, or other context) and documentation to support these reasons (e.g., a compilation of data from a Citation Index, favorable reviews and other evidence of impact; if Citation Index data are to be considered, they must be supplied as part of this documentation; and samples of relevant publications, playbills, or similar material appropriate to the discipline. A representative sample is preferable to submission of a complete record). Should

additional information be required, the selection committee will notify the nominee.

5. For collaborative research, the contribution of the candidate should be clearly identified.
6. An up-to-date curriculum vitae of the candidate, focusing on research productivity. Information about teaching or service may not be relevant.
7. A list of **five or six** possible referees who are experts in the relevant discipline or disciplines, most of whom are outside West Virginia University, and at peer research institutions. Please provide complete address, telephone, fax, and e-mail information.

No specific guidelines regarding length of the above documentation are provided since the scholarly achievements of the faculty differ greatly from one discipline to another. In general, the documentation should be brief, with the emphasis on the quality of the scholarship rather than quantity. Summaries of a person's contributions with the inclusion of copies of two or three of the most important documents would be appropriate.

Office of the Provost, September 2017