

September 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tenured Faculty Colleagues

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



Re: Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing for the 2016-2017 academic year. This award has been made possible through the generosity of former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton, who served in that office from 1989 to 1997. Governor Caperton believed strongly in the critical importance of written communication.

Please see the attached guidelines for a brief history of the Caperton Award and a description of the application process. The award guidelines may also be found at <http://wvufaculty.wvu.edu/opportunities>. Applications for the 2016-2016 Caperton Award applications are due by **Friday, November 18, 2016**.

I highly encourage tenured faculty members from all disciplines to take advantage of the opportunity provided by this award to recognize excellence in the teaching of writing. For additional information, please contact Dr. CB Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel at (304) 293 – 2021.

attachment

CC: CB Wilson
Bill Nevin

Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing

The Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing has been made possible through the generosity of former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton. This award will support improvements in the writing skills of undergraduate and graduate students by recognizing tenured faculty members who exhibit dedication and proficiency in the teaching of writing.

Governor Caperton's intent was to increase awareness of the need for improved writing skills through his position as President of the College Board and its establishment of the National Commission on Writing in America's Schools and Colleges. In addition to identifying strong writing skills as a critical issue necessary to maintain America's competitive edge in the global market, he has developed initiatives to improve writing skills among high school and college students.

The Caperton Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Writing is intended to encourage the faculty to emphasize the importance of effective written communication across the disciplines. Writing skills are most often stressed in the disciplines of English, journalism, and education, but strong writing and communication skills are critical in every field. Additionally, the minds-on engagement required to write effectively enhances student learning of the material and may contribute to student retention.

Raising expectations of the quality and frequency of student writing across the curriculum and at every level, from large-section introductory courses to capstone courses, and in a wide range of disciplines including engineering and the health sciences as well as the arts, humanities, and sciences, will strengthen the academic core of the University, heighten the value of the education provided by the University, and increase the competitiveness of graduates in the global market. The educational environment will become more conducive to teaching and learning because students with strong writing skills will be better prepared to encounter and respond to sophisticated subject matter.

This award was presented annually, beginning with the 2007-2008 award and continuing through the 2011-2012 award. At that time, the award procedures were reviewed to determine if awards should continue on an annual basis. Resources are now available for an award in the present academic year. Recipients of the award will receive \$5,000 in professional support and they are not eligible to again receive the award for a period of eight years. Tenured faculty members from any discipline are eligible to apply. There is no formal application form, but the application is limited to no more than five pages, with no more than ten pages of supporting appendices. A committee of three members, appointed by the Provost, will evaluate applications and recommend the award recipient. The Provost will make the final decision.

Applicants should submit materials that best document their excellence in the teaching of writing. Applicants (not nominators) should submit a narrative statement describing the role of writing in their pedagogy with supporting evidence of teaching activities that utilize writing assignments to enhance student learning, communication skills, and content knowledge within and beyond the classroom. Applicants are encouraged to reflect in their applications on the objectives, activities, and outcomes of writing-intensive courses and capstone courses. Evidence of a demonstrated effort to understand best practices in teaching writing is desirable. Letters from students could be included.

Applications must be received, with all required documents, by the end of the business day, **Friday, November 18, 2016**. No late applications will be accepted. Applications, including the required documents described below, are to be emailed to Dr. C.B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, at cbwilson@mail.wvu.edu. Any that are incomplete at the deadline or which exceed the limitations on maximum length will be returned unevaluated.

Please submit the nomination electronically as a PDF limited to 10 Mbytes. All pages should be consecutively numbered beginning with the number one on the Cover Sheet. Please note that the total number of pages may not exceed 30.

September 2016