



Faculty Affairs Newsletter

Welcome back, and happy Spring semester! We hope you had a restful and restorative winter break and are returning with renewed energy for the months ahead.

As we begin a new term, the Office for Faculty Affairs extends our deep appreciation for the work you do every day—in your classrooms, labs, studios, advising meetings, community engagements, and in countless forms of leadership across our campus. Your dedication to our students and to the scholarly and creative mission of the University of Arkansas continues to inspire us.

This semester brings new opportunities for collaboration and faculty support initiatives across the university. We are committed to providing resources and assistance in areas such as promotion and tenure, mentoring programs, faculty development, recruitment, recognition, and academic leadership. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you as we strengthen our structures, expand support systems, and help advance your work.

We wish you a productive, engaging, and fulfilling semester. Please reach out any time—we are here to help.

Warm regards,

Office for Faculty Affairs



FINAL REMINDER!

We Are Accepting Applications for Provost Award for Mentoring Excellence

The Office for Faculty Affairs is accepting proposals for the Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring through Feb. 28, 2026.

The Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring recognizes an academic department/unit on campus that has a strong faculty mentoring program, including professional development opportunities, for tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Faculty can nominate their department/unit and [submit a proposal](#) to be considered for this award.

The winning department will receive \$10,000 and a university plaque recognizing their achievement. The winning department/unit will also be asked to share and showcase its mentoring program with other units on campus.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, 2026, on the [Faculty Affairs website](#).

Nominate an Outstanding Mentor

To promote excellence in mentoring and recognize outstanding faculty mentors, we encourage non-tenure track, pre-tenure, and mid-career faculty members on our campus to consider acknowledging their faculty mentors.

Outstanding faculty-to-faculty mentors cultivate career advancement and assist their mentees with building excellence in teaching, research, and/or service while encouraging a healthy balance of work and home life. Outstanding mentors assist mentees in building their professional networks, advocate for their mentees, and create avenues for mentee recognition. For more information on the nomination process or to nominate, please visit our [website](#).

Deadline to receive nominations is March 1, 2026.

Welcome to our New Department Chair!

Jeff Gruenewald (Ph.D., Criminal Justice, Michigan State University, 2009) serves as Professor and Chair in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at University of Arkansas. He is a PI for the American Terrorism Study (ATS), co- U.S. Extremist Crime Database (ECDB), and Bias Homicide Database (BHDB). Dr. Gruenewald's research has been funded by the National Institute of Justice and Department of Homeland Security through the START Center.

Dr. Gruenewald continues to teach graduate and undergraduate courses on topics of terrorism and homeland security, hate crime, and other criminal justice matters.





The University of Arkansas is an institutional member of the Faculty Success Program by **NCFDD**. The mission of the NCFDD is “Empowering faculty for lasting success with programs, coaching, and on-demand support.”

Our faculty, postdocs, and graduate students can access professional development webinars, courses, mentoring tools, and workshops focused on strategic planning, writing, work-life balance, and more. Please [sign up](#) TODAY for your free membership using your uark email address.

FINAL REMINDER 14-Day Writing Challenge

The University of Arkansas is Partnering with the NCFDD to host a private 14 Day Writing Challenge!

This challenge is open to academics at all stages, looking to experiment with daily writing and find joy in the process. Commit to writing for at least 30 minutes a day for two weeks.

Login to our online community, start the timer, complete your writing, and post your progress at the end.

Take 5 minutes to support other writers in your group by commenting on their progress.

“Writing” refers to any scholarly activity ranging from the spark of a new idea to polishing a near-complete project (article, grant proposal, exhibit, book chapter, etc.).

The average participant writes for 350 minutes over the two weeks and 98% of recent participants agreed that “the 14- Day Writing Challenge was helpful in making progress on your scholarly work.”

Monday, February 2 - Sunday, February 15, 2026

Registration ends Sunday, January 25, 2026

Register [here](#)

If your college or department is interested in highlighting a professional development opportunity please submit your article for consideration by the 1st Friday of every month.



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