



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Faculty Affairs Newsletter



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 onboarding and mentoring program for early-career and mid-career faculty, including tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Department chairs/heads can nominate their department/unit and [submit a proposal](#) to be considered for this award.

Departments interested in applying are encouraged to submit a one-page proposal by Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, by emailing it to Anna Zajicek, vice provost for faculty affairs, at azajicek@uark.edu.

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 Feb. 28, 2026, and can be submitted 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](#).

2026 Travel Assistance Grant is Now Open

As part of the Provost Office's commitment to supporting faculty development and enhancement, full-time tenure or non-tenure assistant and associate professors are eligible to apply for travel assistance if they are presenting original scholarship as a primary author at a national/international professional conference or creative activity at an exhibition, performance or other related professional venue.

Up to 20 applicants could receive up to \$700 of travel assistance if selected/accepted to present as a primary author, artist, or performer. Before travel, an expense authorization should be completed through the home department. To receive reimbursement, awardees must submit their expense report number in Workday to the Office for Faculty Affairs upon completion of their travel.

Applicants must:

- Be accepted or invited to a professional conference, exhibition, or performance.
- Be the primary author, artist, or performer.
- Receive endorsement from their department chair/head as part of the application packet.
- Be 100% appointed faculty.

- For international travel, please provide expense authorization while applying for travel funding.
- Acknowledge receiving funding support from the Provost's Office.

[Applications are open](#) through Dec. 5, 2025, for conference travel Jan. 1 through June 30, 2026.

Learn more about the Travel Assistance Program and how to apply on the [Faculty Affairs website](#).

The Office for Faculty Affairs & Division for Research and Innovation host 2026 Research Camp

Are you ready to **elevate your research journey**? The 2026 **Research Camp** is back — bigger (expanded to two days in 2026), bolder, and designed to elevate your grantsmanship skills, ignite your curiosity, confidence, and connections. Day one is tailored to faculty hired since 2022 and day two is open to all faculty and will conclude with a faculty recognition reception.



When: Tuesday & Wednesday, January 6-7, 2026

Where: School of Law Building, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Day One – Early Career Faculty Focus

- Grant Lifecycle Roadmap: Learn from research administrators about updated processes and efficiencies in the grant process on campus
- Panel Discussion: Strategic Planning for Promotion & Tenure Success
- Showcase (during lunch): Booths from core facilities, centers & institutes, and grant support teams who can address your specific needs
- Building your Scholarly Reputation for Promotion & Tenure and Beyond
- Program Officer Outreach: Learn how to build relationships that open doors
- Hear from your fellow faculty members who have extensive experience serving on review panels or as program rotators or principal investigators in NSF CAREER, NIH Early Career, and Social Sciences & Humanities (concurrent sessions)

Day Two – All Faculty Focus

- Science Communication: Craft compelling stories that make your research unforgettable
- AI Policy for Researchers: University policy and general use guidelines

- Transdisciplinary Teaming: Collaborate across fields for greater funding success. Hear from successful teams about their journey and get inspired
- Alternate Funding Sources: Securing funding from diverse sources, including foundations, state government, and industry
- Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) Core Facilities Exchange (CFE) Program: Join us for lunch hosted by the ARA CFE Program to learn about this statewide program
- Grant Sessions: Various concurrent sessions from small grant opportunities to larger programmatic federal grants
- Paths to Success: Concurrent sessions on Project Management for research projects and book publishing with academic presses
- Technology Ventures & Commercialization: Identify, protect, and commercialize intellectual property
- Celebration & Reception: Raise a glass to first-time awardees in FY25 and FY26 and your own next step forward.

Who Should Attend?

Whether you're *launching your first proposal* or *expanding your research network*, **Research Camp is your opportunity to refuel, reimagine, and rise.**

Attend one or both days—just don't miss it!

Preference for Day One registration will be given to faculty hired since 2022.

[Register here!](#)

Don't miss out—**register by December 5** to secure your spot.

COEHP WE CARE Initiative

The College of Education and Health Professions continued to support faculty in October and advance the Impactful Research and Caring Culture Priorities of the WE CARE Strategic Plan. On the second day of fall break, the college hosted its 4th annual faculty writing retreat at Mount Sequoyah, which was once again facilitated by Professor Chris Goering. In addition to focused writing time and academic writing coaching provided by Dr. Goering, staff from the college's Office of Research and Grant Administration attend to support faculty identifying funding opportunities and working on proposals.

A few weeks later, first-year faculty members and their families participated in a guided hike of Devil's Den State Park led by Josh Raney, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). OLLI provides courses, cultural programs, and social opportunities to adults in Northwest Arkansas. New faculty not only had the opportunity to learn from Josh about Arkansas' natural environment, but also about OLLI and how they could use their scholarly expertise or personal hobbies to provide learning opportunities to the community.



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.



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.



Facebook



Instagram



YouTube

Faculty Affairs, University of Arkansas
ADMN 421
1125 West Maple Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
[Email](#)
[Website](#)

You're receiving this email through our updated communication system. To [adjust your preferences or unsubscribe, click here.](#)