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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Faculty Affairs Newsletter

Research Camp 2027 Applications Open

The Division of Research and Innovation and the Office of Faculty Affairs invite researchers to attend Research Camp in January 2027. The two day event offers practical strategies, funding insights, and campus connections designed to strengthen your research program.

Registration is required to attend. The deadline is Friday December 18, 2026.

Research camp 2027 registration – Fill out form

Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship.

The awards committee of the Teaching Academy invites deans, department heads, and faculty members to nominate deserving faculty for the Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship.

Award Criteria:
The Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship recognizes faculty members at the University of Arkansas who have demonstrated consistent and committed excellence in teaching, instruction and mentoring, all qualities central to the mission of a student-centered institution.

Nominees must:
1. Instruct an introductory or entry-level course that introduces students to their discipline or that acquaints students with a discipline. The course

should be instructed within the last academic year.

2. Demonstrate excellence in classroom teaching

3. Demonstrate excellence in student advising and mentoring, including formal academic advising, informal advising, student group or club advising, special project or research instruction

The award carries an honorarium of $1,000 provided by the Imhoff Trust and a mantle clock with a brass plate, a very nice memento commemorating the occasion.

Nominations may be made by anyone on the faculty of the University and need not be Teaching Academy members. **However, each nomination letter must indicate that the nominee is also "endorsed" by a named member of the Teaching Academy.** A list of Teaching Academy members may be found at https://teaching-academy.uark.edu/who-we-are/members-by-name/

To nominate a faculty colleague, send a brief nomination letter describing the nominee's qualifications by **Friday, October 23rd at 5 pm** to:
Li Yang
KIMP 425
liyang@uark.edu

If your nominating letter is sent as an e-mail attachment, please include the words "Imhoff Award Nomination" in the subject line of the e-mail. Please keep nomination letters to two pages in length. The nomination letters are very important and are used by the awards committee as the sole criterion in selecting finalists for the award.

By **Friday, October 30th,** the awards committee will select three finalists who will be invited to submit more complete packets of information about their teaching and mentoring activities.

For any additional information or clarification of the award and the selection procedure, please contact co-chairs Li Yang at liyang@uark.edu or Heather Walker at hlw@uark.edu .

2027 Ferritor Award Application is Now Open

The Office of the Provost and the U of A Teaching Academy are pleased to issue the call for proposals for the 2026 Daniel E. Ferritor Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching. The award is named in honor of Daniel E. Ferritor, who served as chancellor of the U of A from 1986 to 1997 and as interim chancellor in 2015. He also founded the Teaching Academy in 1988. The Award is sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor.

The annual award honors the academic unit that best exemplifies a sustained, department-wide commitment to teaching excellence for all students. The winning department receives $10,000 and a trophy, and has the unit's name placed on a traveling university plaque housed in that department for one year.

Applications will be submitted in two phases.

The first phase should include five-page responses to criteria 1 and 2 and supporting documentation. The deadline for this submission is October 31, 2026. Applications can be uploaded using the online form. Please upload materials in one pdf document.

The second phase should include five-page responses to criteria 3 and 4, supporting documentation, and a one-page executive summary. The deadline for this submission is January 30, 2027. For more information, please visit our website.

Recent winners of the Ferritor Departmental Award are the School of Human Environmental Science (2023), Department of Curriculum and Instruction (2024), School of Journalism & Strategic Media (2025), and Civil Engineering (2026).

2027 Mentoring Graduate Student Workshop Application

The Office for Faculty Affairs invites you to participate in our Spring 2027 workshop series, Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students. This series is designed for both new and experienced faculty members—including graduate coordinators—who supervise, mentor, and support graduate students at the University of Arkansas. The workshop offers practical tools, thoughtful strategies, and valuable insights to help faculty build effective, inclusive, and supportive mentoring relationships with graduate students. Participants consistently report that the series enhances their confidence and effectiveness as mentors, while also providing a meaningful space for dialogue and reflection with colleagues across campus.

The workshop covers eight key topics and will be held every other Thursday beginning January 15, 2027. Specific dates and times are listed on our website.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the application by November 14, 2026 . Space is limited. We hope you will join us.

2027 Bridge Program Workshop Application

The Bridge Program assists **new** faculty as they transition to the U of A, providing mentorship and onboarding resources using best practices and an innovative and comprehensive teams-based approach. The program also allows new faculty to network with their peers across other departments and colleges. Faculty who would like to participate in the Bridge Program can

indicate their interest by completing this form by November 15th. Space is limited, and priority enrollment will be given to those able to attend all six sessions.

Please nominate a 2026/2027 Outstanding Faculty 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.

University of Arkansas Celebrates Excellence in Teaching at 2026 Faculty Awards Reception



The University of Arkansas honored outstanding faculty members at the 2026 Faculty Teaching Awards Reception, held on September 29. The event, co-

sponsored by the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center (TFSC) and the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy, recognized faculty achievements in teaching, mentorship, and professional development.

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Anna Zajicek welcomed attendees and emphasized the university's commitment to teaching excellence and student success.

The keynote address was delivered by Richard Cassady, recipient of the Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship. Cassady, University Professor of Industrial Engineering, spoke about the legacy of John Imhoff in his field and at the University of Arkansas. Imhoff, like Cassady, was a faculty member in Industrial Engineering.

The reception also celebrated leadership transitions for the TFSC and the Teaching Academy. Hope Ballentine concluded her term as TFSC Co-Director (2023–2026) this past summer; Dr. Zajicek recognized Dr. Ballentine for her leadership and steady hand as co-director. Susan Bristow is the outgoing president of the Teaching Academy, and current Teaching Academy President Dr. Carole Shook praised Dr. Bristow as a role model in teaching and service.

The program recognized faculty who received awards or recognition during the 2025-26 academic year and presented certificates to faculty who completed one of two TFSC commendations. The full program is available here.

College of Education and Health Professions Launches First-Year Faculty Engagement and Networking Series



The College of Education and Health Professions began its First-Year Faculty Engagement and Networking Series with two sessions designed to deepen new faculty members' understanding of higher education and the Northwest Arkansas community. During the Higher Education 101 session, participants explored the history, structure, and current challenges facing higher education in general, and the University of Arkansas and the college in particular. A few weeks later, faculty traveled to Bentonville to learn about the region's vibrant arts ecosystem, meeting with college staff who lead art-integration efforts in Arkansas schools and touring Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. As part of the tour, senior leaders from Crystal Bridges highlighted the museum's new art-making spaces and expansive field trip program. The First-Year Faculty Engagement and Networking Series is designed to acclimate new faculty members to the college, university, and broader community and is supported by the college's WE CARE Strategic Plan.

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."

Other resources and upcoming webinars and events can be found on the NCFDD site here.

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.

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Faculty Affairs, University of Arkansas
ADMN 421
1125 West Maple Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Email
Website