

February 13, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans
Department Chairs/School and Center Directors

FROM: Ali Eskandarian [Ali Eskandarian](#)
Ali Eskandarian (Feb 14, 2024 13:53 EST)
Interim Vice President for Research

SUBJECT: Nominations for 2024 Outstanding Early Career Award

The Outstanding Early Career Award is given to outstanding young faculty who have excelled in their scholarly endeavors. The award helps enhance the academic career of junior faculty by providing discretionary funds for the support of future scholarly activities; promote, recognize and reward scholarly excellence among young investigators; support researchers and foster contact and cooperation with industry and institutions that support research and education, and aid in building closer ties between BGSU and the local community. A more complete description of the criteria and selection process for the award is attached.

Nominations will be accepted any time on/or before **February 28, 2024** by the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR) as an email attachment to ospr@bgsu.edu. Depending on the size of the documents comprising the nomination package, several emails might be required. If size continues to be an issue, please contact OSPR and arrangements can be made to use Sharepoint.

OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER AWARD

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR) wishes to recognize outstanding early career faculty who have excelled in their scholarly endeavors. Financial support for this award is provided through an endowment established in the BGSU Foundation with fund contributions from the BGSU Ohio Eminent Scholars, Mid American National Bank and Trust, Mid Am Inc., and an anonymous donor. Additionally, funding has been provided by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Technology, Health and Human Services, the Graduate College and OSPR.

Goals

This award is intended to:

- enhance the academic career of junior faculty by providing discretionary funds for the support of future scholarly activities,
- promote, recognize and reward scholarly excellence among early career investigators,
- support researchers and foster contact and cooperation with industry and institutions that support research and education, and
- aid in building closer ties between BGSU and the local community.

Selection

Each year a recipient will be selected from a pool of candidates who have been nominated by their departments and/or colleges. Thus the nomination itself will provide recognition for a select group of junior faculty. Further screening leading to the selection of the recipient will be conducted via a peer review process coordinated by OSPR. Review by the OSPR Committee will be based on the nominee's demonstrated scholarly ability and potential significance of scholarly accomplishments and efforts in securing external funding support.

Award

The award recipient will be announced at the annual Faculty Excellence Awards. The recipient will receive a cash award of \$2,000 in addition to \$1,000 deposited into his or her discretionary research account.

Submission

All materials must be submitted to OSPR on/or before **February 28, 2024**. Eligible scholars may be nominated by their department or college. Departments should forward their nominations and any pertinent documents to the college offices. College deans will forward their comments and recommendations to the OSPR office, along with the nomination packages. College deans are asked to rank their nominees in the event that there are more than one within a single college. The nomination will include a letter of nomination from the Chair and/or Dean, a current resume, copies of recent reprints, current research plan and other relevant information.

Eligibility Criteria

Early career scholars from all disciplines may compete for this honor. Award recipients must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree (or appropriate terminal degree for the field) as an assistant professor at the time of their nomination;
- All nominees must be un-tenured at the time of application;
- Actively pursuing external funding while in residence at BGSU; and
- Have not previously received the Outstanding Early Career Award (formerly the Outstanding Young Scholar Award).

Review Criteria

Criteria for selection will include consideration of the following:

- The applicant's competence as evidenced by recent outstanding achievements, particularly the quality of research and publications;
- The institutional impact of achievements and potential for continued professional growth; and
- The quality and significance of long-range research and the appropriateness of the research plan to the applicant's academic setting and its probable impact upon BGSU as well as the scholarly community within the discipline.

Review Process

1. Eligible scholars may be nominated by their department or college, but the college ultimately makes the nomination.
2. Departments must forward their nominations and any pertinent documents to the college offices.
3. College deans will forward their comments and recommendations to the OSPR office, along with the nomination packages.
4. College deans are asked to rank their nominees in the event that there are more than one within a single college.

From this slate of nominees an awardee will be selected by the Faculty Research Committee (FRC). When an extremely strong slate of nominees is presented to the FRC, two awards may be made (funds permitting) or, the committee may, at its discretion, defer making an award in any given year.

In view of the fact that goals and criteria of this endowment are subject to change over time, it is anticipated that they will be reviewed and modified (as necessary and appropriate) at intervals of no less than five (5) years.