



Office of

Research & Economic Development

RAINMAKER AWARDS

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

The Office of Research & Economic Development, Campus Federal Credit Union and the Council on Research have established the Rainmaker Award, which is given each year to faculty who show outstanding research, scholarship and creative activity for their respective rank and discipline. The award recognizes both sustained and continuing work, as well as the impact that work has had on the faculty member, their department, and their academic community.

There are three Rainmaker Award categories: Emerging Scholar, Mid-Career Scholar, and Senior Scholar. For each category, an award will be offered for a faculty member whose discipline is in the area of Arts, Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences and one whose discipline is in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics.

Nominations may be made by a faculty member, department chair or college dean. Nomination letters must precisely indicate the research or scholarship that is the basis for the nomination and should indicate for which area and category the nominee is to be considered. Nominations are reviewed and prizes awarded by members of the Council on Research. The winners of each award evening reception.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Nominees must be full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty at LSU. They should also be nominated for an appropriate award category based on the following criteria:

Emerging Scholar - no more than nine (9) years shall have passed since the completion of the terminal degree (defined as the most advanced degree offered in a given discipline, ordinarily required for a faculty position in that discipline). This award recognizes outstanding research/creative productivity and scholarship.

Mid-Career Scholar - no more than sixteen (16) years shall have passed since completion of the terminal degree (defined as the most advanced degree offered in a given discipline, ordinarily required for a faculty position in that discipline). This award recognizes a sustained program of excellence and strong name recognition in their field.

Senior Scholar – This award recognizes a senior tenured faculty member at LSU who has exhibited a sustained program of excellence as measured by significant contributions to their academic field.

The nominee's record is expected to be comparable to the quality that is considered for the Distinguished Research Master award.

Review criteria for high quality research/creative activities and scholarship include, but are not limited to: publication in a high impact journal(s); a highly cited work; external awards; invited presentations at national and international meetings; high journal publication productivity; critically acclaimed book publication(s), performance(s), exhibits(s) or theatrical production(s); high grant productivity; and, for more senior candidates, outstanding citation records and high impact invited presentations at national and international meetings.

PLEASE NOTE: Emeriti faculty, Boyd professors and previous recipients of the Distinguished Research Master are **NOT** eligible for the Rainmaker Award. Faculty who have received a Rainmaker award in a particular category cannot be nominated for a subsequent award in the same category (i.e. you cannot be nominated as an Emerging Scholar if you have previously received an Emerging Scholar award. You can however be nominated for a Mid-Career Scholar award when appropriate). In addition, an individual can be nominated for only one category in one area in any given year.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations are to be submitted online through the LSU InfoReady Internal Grants & Competitions Portal (<https://lsu.infoready4.com/>) by the nominator. Announcement of the nomination process will occur in September of each year, with a submission deadline in late November (exact deadlines are posted online).

The online form will require upload of a single PDF file with the following components:

1. Nominating Letter (from chair or department head)
2. Vita of nominee
3. Letters of recommendation (up to 3 letters)
4. Appendix if needed

Letters of recommendation must come from prominent scholars who are located at peer universities or, where appropriate, at major research laboratories or federal agencies. These letters must directly address the scholarly and research contributions of the nominee. In addition, the letter should identify the writer's relationship with the Rainmaker nominee (i.e. former student, major professor) if applicable.

REVIEW PROCESS

Upon submission, the nominee's dean will be asked to approve the nomination. After that approval, the nomination packet will be distributed to selected members of the Council on Research for a preliminary review. In their January meeting, the Council will make a final review to determine the winner in each category.

Notifications will occur shortly after the final review, and an announcement will be made once all award winners have been contacted. If COVID conditions allow, an awards reception will be held during the Spring where all the award winners will be celebrated.

Direct all inquiries to Associate Vice President Stephen David Beck (sdbeck@lsu.edu) or to the Office of Research & Economic Development (research@lsu.edu).

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