February 24, 2015

To: Dennis Shields, Chancellor, UW-Platteville  
    Rebecca Blank, Chancellor, UW-Madison  
    Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor, UW Colleges/UW-Extension

From: Dave Ward

Re: 2015 Alliant Energy Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards

I am very pleased to invite you to submit the name of an outstanding faculty or instructional academic staff member to receive the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award. As you know, Alliant Energy has established the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize outstanding teaching by faculty and academic staff at UW System institutions within the Alliant service area. Winners of the Alliant Energy Underkofler Awards will be honored at a special ceremony.

This year we will award three Underkofler Awards in the amount of $2,500 each to the winner selected at each UW institution in the Alliant Energy service area.

For the Underkofler Awards, please forward to us the name of a faculty or teaching academic staff member that you select from each one of your institutions. All selections are due by May 1st, 2015.

The attached guidelines will provide you with detailed information on the award criteria that your UW institution should use to select the recipient of the award and on the documentation that should be sent to us together with your selection. Please send one complete set of the Underkofler package materials electronically to the Office of Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs at afgp@uwsa.edu.

Finally, please be aware that this year we are asking each institution to make a selection internally through your own selection process.

Questions on the awards programs may be directed to Sal Carranza at (608) 265-9177 or scarranza@uwsa.edu. I very much appreciate your support for this important award.

Enclosure

cc: Ray Cross, President  
    Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Associate Vice President  
    Mittie Nimocks Den Herder, Provost and Vice Chancellor, UW-Platteville
Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor, UW-Madison
Greg Lampe, Provost and Vice Chancellor, UW Colleges
Julie Bauer, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation
Jo Ann Healy, Program Administrator, Alliant Energy Foundation
Ginger Hintz, Controller, Financial Administration
Steven K. Smith, Secretary of the Faculty’s Office, UW-Madison
Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Academic Staff’s Office, UW-Madison
Sal Carranza, Senior System Academic Planner, AFGP
Call for Nominations for
THE ALLIANT ENERGY UNDERKOFLER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The UW System Office of Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs (AFPG) requests nominations for the 2015 Alliant Energy Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards. For 2015, three awards of $2,500 each will be made to the selected nominees from UW System institutions within the service area of the company. The awards are intended to recognize teaching of outstanding quality that leads to substantial intellectual growth in students.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible individuals must be current members of the teaching faculty or instructional academic staff at one of the UW System institutions within the service area of Alliant Energy. These institutions are UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and the UW College campuses at Baraboo, Fond du Lac, Richland Center, Rock County, and Sheboygan. The campuses at Madison and Platteville and the five Colleges as a group must each select one faculty or instructional academic staff member for the award.

INSTITUTIONAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Selection procedures will be determined by each eligible institution, and only those selections submitted by the eligible institutions will be considered. Therefore, individuals must consult with and work through their Provost's office in making their applications. We urge institutions to ensure that the procedure is as thorough, careful, and fair as possible and that it allows for participation by all major constituencies of the university community.

CRITERIA

The institution should value evidence that the candidate:

1. Displays an uncommon commitment to teaching (e.g., works to maintain a strong and current knowledge of the field; seeks out and develops innovative approaches to teaching, including effective uses of technology to enhance teaching; shares insights on teaching through presentations and publications; serves as a mentor or special advisor to students; sponsors student-initiated projects).

2. Employs especially effective teaching strategies (e.g., communicates high expectations; establishes good intellectual rapport with students; engages students in and out of the classroom in an active examination of the topic; conveys excitement about the material; fosters conceptual and critical thinking; models and encourages an integrated view of knowledge; respects and responds to the diversity among students).

3. Has enabled particularly notable achievements by former students.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

1. A 1- or 2-page reflective statement by the nominee on his or her teaching and learning philosophy, strategies, objectives, and on how these have evolved over time.

2. A condensed curriculum vitae of the nominee.

3. One or two letters of support from current or past students. At least one letter should be from a student with recent or current contact with the nominee.

4. One or two letters of support from colleagues qualified to comment on the candidate's teaching. One should be from the department chair.

DEADLINE

The names of selected nominees and supporting materials are due by May 1st, 2015, and should be e-mailed to the Office of Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs at afgp@uwsa.edu. Questions about the awards program should be addressed to Sal Carranza at scarranza@uwsa.edu or afgp@uwsa.edu.