

Dear Colleagues,

The Graduate College is delighted to announce this year's competition for **The Graduate College's Outstanding Mentor Award**. This award recognizes and honors a faculty member who has had outstanding success in mentoring graduate students. The award eligibility criteria specified in the nomination materials are aligned with the criteria established by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) for their outstanding mentor award. As a result, the campus winner is also eligible for the CSGS competition. **Please note that in line with the CSGS nomination instructions, we have updated our nomination instructions to indicate that faculty members must be nominated by a colleague (and not by a former student).**

Award

\$2,500, to be paid into the faculty member's research account. In addition, The Graduate College will enter the winner into the CSGS Outstanding Mentor Award competition. The CSGS winner will be awarded an additional \$1,000 plus registration expenses to attend the 2026 CSGS Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (February 18-20, 2026), where the CSGS award will be presented.

Eligibility

1. Any full-time tenured faculty member at Texas State University who has successfully mentored a cadre of graduate students at the master's or doctoral level. Faculty members employed in The Graduate College and previous award recipients are ineligible for this award. Packets of previously nominated but not selected individuals can be updated and resubmitted.
2. Nominees must have gained distinction as a mentor on campus, specifically, they must demonstrate the following:
 - Reputation for facilitating student learning by making complex ideas understandable and meaningful to students.
 - Establishment and maintenance of high academic standards.
 - Positive role modeling as a professional, with personal integrity, high ethical standards, and achievable standards for personal excellence.
 - Consistent and ongoing guidance of students regarding resources within and outside the university, conflict resolution, and advocacy for completion of the program of study in a timely manner.
 - Substantial influence on the academic and professional pursuits of students that may include funded research, co-authorship on publications, and co-presentations at national or international conferences.
3. Nominees must have demonstrated continuing success as a mentor over a significant portion of their career.

Nomination

Faculty members must be nominated by their institutional colleagues; they may not nominate themselves. Nominations must include the following materials and must be submitted as a complete packet in one single PDF. Nominations that do not adhere strictly to these instructions will not be considered:

- A summary (2-page maximum) of the nominee's qualifications for the award. This document can consist of a bulleted list. It should include the name of the nominee, their program, and the name of the nominator.
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae of the nominee (8-page maximum).

- Three letters of support (each letter is limited to 2 pages) from former graduate students (i.e., alumni of Texas State University and *not* current graduate students) attesting to the mentoring provided by the nominee. The letter writer must provide evidence of how the nominee contributed to the letter writer's success and achievements.
- Two letters of support from departmental colleagues (each letter is limited to 2 pages). The letter must provide specific examples of the nominee's efforts on behalf of her/his graduate students.

Please do *not* include additional documents (i.e., do *not* provide a cover letter, a cover page, or a table of contents).

Selection

A committee appointed by the Graduate Dean will make recommendations to the Dean of The Graduate College. The Dean will make the final selection.

Deadline

A single PDF of the complete nomination packet must be received by The Graduate College by **October 17, 2025**. The PDF must be emailed to graduatecollegedean@txstate.edu. Please include "The Graduate College's Outstanding Mentor Award" in the subject line.

Questions may be addressed to Dean Andrea Golato at graduatecollegedean@txstate.edu.

We look forward to working with you in recognizing and promoting the mentoring accomplishments of our colleagues.

Sincerely,

Andrea Golato
Dean, The Graduate College