

## **College of Natural and Health Sciences 2024-2025 Excellence Awards**

The NHS College Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2024-2025 NHS Excellence Awards which are described below. Self-nominations are welcome but please do not request student or supervisee letters of support. Each award carries a \$600 grant that may be used for books, materials, software, travel or other expenses that enhance professional development. The awarded funds will be available July 1, 2025 and will need to be spent by May 15, 2026. The recipients of all awards will be recognized at the fall semester NHS Launch Event. Award winners who received an award in one of the categories are not eligible to receive another award in that same category for *five* years. For example, a 2020 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award would not be eligible for nomination for that award again until 2025.

Nominations not awarded in a given year will be rolled over to the following year for reconsideration. Nominators will be notified at the beginning of the spring semester of this role over and will have an opportunity to update their nomination.

Awards are given in the following areas:

- Excellence in Teaching
- Excellence in Scholarship
- Excellence in Service
- Excellence in Advising
- Faculty Research Mentor of the Year – Undergraduate Level
- Faculty Research Mentor of the Year – Graduate Level
- Ellen Meyer Gregg, Excellence in Leadership
- Outstanding Staff
- Excellence in Equity and Inclusion

***Nomination process:*** The nomination process is the same for all awards. The completed nomination form including a max 300-word rationale for the award and all supporting material up to 15 pages should be submitted in a single PDF file to the Associate Dean of Research & Faculty Affairs (kim.murza@unco.edu) by **5:00 PM on Monday, March 31, 2025**. *Hard copy nominations will not be accepted.* The NHS College Awards Committee will recommend the recipient for the awards to the NHS Dean by April 21, 2025.

### ***Excellence in Teaching***

The College of NHS values innovation, quality instruction and program development by its faculty. The Excellence in Teaching Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching and epitomize the highest levels of performance resulting in a superior impact on student learning. The faculty member selected for the NHS Excellence in Teaching Award will be encouraged to submit a portfolio for the Sears-Helgoth Distinguished Teaching Award if the faculty member is eligible based on rank and time as a faculty member at UNC.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty in the college

***Nomination Guidelines:***

Example activities that merit nomination for this award include

- Demonstrates significant student learning outcomes
- Demonstrates expertise in the use of instructional methods to communicate and deliver content
- Employs appropriate, innovative, and stimulating pedagogical strategies
- Employs high academic standards
- Encourages students to think critically and reflect upon essential concepts and topics
- Provides college and/or campus leadership in developing and implementing
  - Innovative instruction strategies
  - Curriculum
  - Course design
- Documents sustained exceptional teaching evaluations and/or peer assessments

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include

- Feedback from students and peers on teaching evaluations, artifacts, and/or course materials.

### ***Excellence in Scholarship***

The College of NHS values research, scholarship, creative works, and grant activity performed by its faculty. The Excellence in Scholarship Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty members who achieve distinction as a scholar and demonstrate high quality research productivity and/or grant funding. The faculty member selected for this award will receive a letter of support for the Winchester Distinguished Scholar Award in the next academic year if the faculty member is eligible based on time as a faculty member at UNC and the academic unit nominates the individual for the award.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include

- Communicates knowledge in an effective and organized manner via professional communication, publications, and presentations.
- Applies knowledge from scholarly work to continuously improve and evaluate their own pedagogical practices.
- Demonstrates a record of scholarly contributions to the field/discipline (relative to time in the profession).
- Demonstrates a record of successful funding of competitive external grants and successful stewardship of grant funded projects.
- Evidence of quality in the impact of scholarship (local, regional, national, international).
- Involves students in research and its dissemination.

- Recognition of scholarly accomplishments by peers outside the university.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Awards and professional recognition, examples of published works, presentations, artifacts, and/or grant proposals.

### ***Excellence in Service***

The College of NHS values the rich variety of service provide by its faculty. The Excellence in Service Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty members who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to service endeavors both within UNC (unit, college, and university) and outside of UNC (profession and community).

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Contributes significantly to the development of other faculty members.
- Contributes significantly to the curriculum and instructional program of the Department/School, College, or University beyond one's own courses.
- Contributes significantly to the discipline and/or profession.
- Contributes significantly to the community at large in relation to their profession.
- Contributes significantly to Department/School, College, or University governance.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Awards and professional recognition, peer/organization letters of recognition, examples of documented service work (including outcomes of these service activities), and/or artifacts.

### ***Excellence in Advising***

The College of NHS values student support and recognizes the importance of faculty and staff advisors with regard to student success. The Excellence in Advising Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty and staff members who demonstrate qualities associated with student success and inspiration, which are sustained through academic advising relationships.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty and staff advisors in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Promotes ample opportunity for student interaction.
- Provides accurate advising information to aid in student progression toward graduation.

- Provides career mentoring as well as academic advising, as appropriate.
- Is widely knowledgeable of university requirements, academic policies, and student support services.
- Consistently demonstrates respect, concern, and interest in students and student groups.
- Participates in advising student groups.
- Establishes conscientious, supportive, and inspiring relationships with advisees.
- Effectively guides advisees to process information, refine decision-making and develop problem-solving skills.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Student and peer testimonials and/or letter of support, first-person narrative, and/or artifacts.

### ***Undergraduate Research Mentor***

The College of NHS values student support and recognizes the importance of faculty research advisors with regard to student success. The Undergraduate Research Mentor Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty members who provide undergraduate research experiences and demonstrate excellence in mentoring, supervising, and supporting undergraduate student research projects which contribute to the discipline or profession.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Provides additional learning opportunities beyond classroom experience.
- Uses innovative research and mentoring methods.
- Encourages students to present research findings at professional meetings.
- Collaborates with students on publications and presentations.
- Supportive of the professional growth of students.
- Communicates well with student mentees.
- Helps students develop their own knowledge and skills through scholarly research beyond merely doing the work of the faculty member.
- Demonstrates an impact on a student's educational or career path.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Mentee and/or peer letter of support, first-person narrative, examples of published works and/or presentations, and/or artifacts.

The College of NHS values student support and recognizes the importance of faculty research advisors with regard to student success. The Graduate Research Mentor Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty members who provide graduate research experiences and demonstrate excellence in mentoring, supervising, and supporting graduate student research projects which

contribute to the science/profession.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Provides additional learning opportunities beyond classroom experience.
- Uses innovative research and mentoring methods.
- Encourages students to present research findings at professional meetings.
- Collaborates with students on publications and presentations.
- Supportive of the professional growth of students.
- Communicates well with student mentees.
- Helps students develop their own knowledge and skills through scholarly research.
- Demonstrates an impact on a student's educational or career path.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Mentee and/or peer letter of support, first-person narrative, examples of published works and/or presentations, and/or artifacts.

### ***Ellen Meyer Gregg, Excellence in Leadership***

The College of NHS is guided by leaders who contribute to the administrative work and shared governance of the university. The Excellence in Leadership Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional faculty and staff members who provide vision and leadership and who collaborate with diverse groups to achieve strategic improvements within their academic units, the College, and the University or within professional organizations and related communities. The award is named after Ellen Meyer Gregg who served as a faculty member in Speech-Language Pathology (1987-2008), Director of the former School of Human Sciences (2008-2012), and dean of NHS from 2012-2018.

***Eligibility:*** All full-time faculty and staff in the college

***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Provides leadership in mentoring.
- Provides leadership in establishing and maintaining academic partnerships with other academic units, colleges, or institutions.
- Provides leadership in a scholarly field, as demonstrated by publication of influential work, keynote or other invited addresses, or receipt of awards or honors.
- Provides leadership in disciplinary or professional organizations, which has a significant impact on the organization.
- Provides leadership in acquisition of funds and/or resources that make a major contribution to the

discipline and/or have a significant impact on major programs.

- Plays a major leadership role in service efforts having an exceptional impact on the quality or vitality of the community or society.
- Initiates and/or takes major responsibility for university outreach efforts, off-campus initiatives, and partnerships.
- Takes major responsibility for establishing and/or maintaining teaching, research, or service facilities.
- Plays a major leadership role in initiatives having a positive impact on the quality of an academic unit's atmosphere, culture, or student and faculty experiences.
- Assumes a leadership role in campus governance that has an exceptional impact on the quality, vitality, or mission of the University.
- Demonstrates academic leadership in the broader College and University context, beyond advancement of his or her own discipline or area.

Examples of supporting materials for this award may include:

- Peer letter of support, letters in recognition of contributions, first-person narrative, awards/honors, and/or artifacts.

### ***Outstanding Staff***

The College of NHS values outstanding contributions to the College and University by NHS staff. The outstanding staff award is designed to highlight an individual with proven excellence in job performance, who shows dedication to their unit/NHS/UNC, or any combination thereof, and who provides outstanding service to others. The staff member selected for this award will receive a letter of support for either the PASC Employee of the Year or the Classified Staff Employee of the Year if the staff member is eligible and the academic unit nominates the individual for the award.

***Eligibility:*** Any staff member (classified or exempt employee) that has worked in the College of Natural and Health Sciences for at least one year and has not won this award in the last five years.

#### ***Nomination Guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit a nomination for this award include:

- Contributes major time and effort into learning and implementing new technology or processes to improve school/department or college procedures.
- Takes on additional responsibilities for a prolonged amount of time to maintain or increase efficiency in their role.
- Contributes significantly to initiatives that have an impact on the quality of the departmental/school atmosphere, culture, or student and faculty experiences.
- Displays strong systematic and organizational abilities that enhance the work of the college.
- Communicates with and mentors other colleagues in the academic unit, college, or university in ways that enhance effectiveness and efficiency.

- Plays a key role in managing conflicts and problem solving within the department/school.
- Participates in significant service to the department/school/college/university.
- Consistently demonstrates respect and support for colleagues and students.

### ***Excellence in Equity and Inclusion***

The University of Northern Colorado values an environment that fosters an inclusive, supportive, and respectful climate. The Leadership in Equity and Inclusion Award is designed to formally recognize and celebrate exceptional members of the NHS College community who provide and/or participate in distinctive and outstanding opportunities that foster equity and inclusion within UNC and associated communities.

***Eligible:*** All full-time faculty and staff in the college

#### ***Nomination guidelines:***

Examples of activities that would merit nomination for this award include:

- Substantially incorporates diversity and inclusion topics within course design, assignments, and community engagement activities.
- Establishes a sustained relationship with diverse individuals and groups which promote a greater understanding and opportunities for growth and success.
- Contributing to and supporting campus and community groups which exemplify the values of diversity and inclusive leadership.
- New research or creative works that advances understanding of underrepresented groups in the field of study or has the potential to improve the quality of life among underrepresented groups in the field of study.
- Leads activities that effectively promote the professional and/or academic advancement of underrepresented groups in the nominee's discipline.