The FIT Faculty Excellence Awards are presented annually to faculty members (classroom or non-classroom) who demonstrate outstanding teaching, professional development and a commitment to student learning, using exemplary research, scholarship or creative activity, and exceptional service to instruct students while serving as an active member of the academic community. Nominations may be made by anyone in the College community. This year’s award ceremony is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19, 2015.**

The Vice President for Academic Affairs has appointed a committee of faculty and administrators who make recommendations of nominees to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Faculty Excellence Awards and to the President for the President’s Award. Recipients are expected to demonstrate a cumulative record of excellence in serving students, in scholarship or creative activity and in service to the College. On an annual basis, the President may designate a category for special recognition with a President’s Award. Award recipients will receive a monetary award as well as a tangible reminder of the recognition.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Full-time faculty (classroom or non-classroom) members with tenure as of January 1 of the award year are eligible.
- The nomination is valid only for the year in which it is made.
- Recipients may not receive an award more than once during a five-year period.

**EXPECTATIONS**

Award recipients will be selected based on a broad range of criteria and will generally satisfy expectations in multiple categories. There will be up to four recipients of the Faculty Excellence Award each year and one recipient of the President’s Award in the year it is awarded. Awardees will not be limited to specific categories except for the President’s Award which may change from year to year and will be announced in advance by the President. Nominators may wish to emphasize particular areas of strength; however, the awards will not be determined or designated by a single category.

**Teaching and Service to Students**

Award nominees must clearly demonstrate their commitment to teaching and sustained capability to deliver excellence in the learning experience. Service to students involves activities that assist individual students and groups of students beyond the normal teaching or support responsibilities of every faculty member. These activities may involve support for curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities or organizations and may be met in the following ways:
• consistent teaching excellence over a period of time;
• exceptional knowledge of the subject matter they teach and the ability to communicate that subject matter in a meaningful way;
• an active concern for students’ success and expected high standards for students to achieve;
• availability outside of class to deal with student needs and concerns;
• respect for diversity and diverse learning styles;
• development and use of innovative teaching strategies and new technologies that have proven positive results;
• commitment to mentoring students and serving as a positive role model for students;
• introduction of global perspectives to students through curriculum or activities outside of class;
• consistently rising above the average faculty member in dedication, effort, and positive impact on the intellectual development of students;
• advising students on academic paths, educational goals, and career objectives;
• advising a student chapter of a professional organization;
• mentoring a student, advising a student club, or other non-classroom activity that may have both academic and social components;
• providing seminars to students on ways of improving study habits, writing and speaking skills, or integrating knowledge across disciplines;
• tutoring students;
• assisting students in the transition from school to work through career and internship counseling.

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
Research, scholarship and creative activity bring recognition to the individual as well as to the College, extend the boundaries of knowledge, and demonstrate awareness of the history or future of a discipline. Examples include:
• contributing time and expertise to further the work of a professional society, such as editing a journal or other publication;
• publishing books, monographs or articles that are a significant contribution to the discipline;
• curating an exhibit of faculty or student work;
• mounting an exhibit in the community;
• organizing a professional conference or symposium;
• communicating in popular and non-academic media including newsletters, radio, television, and magazines;
• using technology creatively in the interests of teaching and research;
• supporting student research and creative projects;
• securing research grants;
• securing foundation grants to support research or creative activities.

Service to the College and Community
Academic programs, departments, schools, the College, and SUNY as a whole are communities that rely on their members for the necessary energy, time, and leadership to sustain and develop them as viable and effective systems for accomplishing their missions. Classroom faculty and non-
classroom faculty are members of these communities who share responsibility for their governance and advancement by contributing through institutional service. Service to the institution involves activities that help sustain or lead academic endeavors. Service to the larger community that calls upon the faculty member’s expertise as a teacher, scholar or practitioner may also be recognized. Examples of service include but are not limited to:

- contributing as a member or leader of a task force to address an issue facing the College either through the campus or through system-wide service;
- leading faculty governance activities;
- representing the College in public forums;
- providing extraordinary committee service;
- providing leadership for the effective functioning of a unit;
- consulting with private and public, profit, and not-for-profit organizations by applying expertise to enhance the efficiency or effectiveness of the organizations served; assisting the public through a College, school, service or center;
- making research understandable and useable in specific professional and applied settings;
- providing public policy analysis for local, state, national, or international government agencies;
- giving presentations or performances for the public;
- evaluating programs, policies, or personnel for agencies;
- engaging in seminars and conferences that address public interest problems, issues, and concerns and that are aimed at either general or specialized audiences such as trade, commodity, practitioner, or occupational groups;
- participating in governmental meetings or on federal review panels;
- engaging in economic or community development activities;
- participating in collaborative endeavors with schools, industry, or civic agencies.
The President’s Award for Faculty Excellence acknowledges exemplary teaching and academic service provided to the College by full-time faculty members. The President may designate a special focus for this award on an annual basis. For 2015, this specific category is **Curricular Innovation**, reflecting the President’s commitment to put students first as FIT moves forward one of the key goals of the Strategic Plan, which is “to ensure academic and creative excellence by providing a rigorous learning experience built on the highest standards of academic and scholarly excellence, an environment that promotes creativity and experimentation, and diverse experiential learning with a variety of industry partners.” **Curricular innovation** that stimulates pedagogical growth and evolution is critical to FIT’s creation of a nurturing, learning-centered environment within an enriched environment of faculty and student engagement, and thus this year’s award will recognize faculty whose contributions in this area have been extraordinary.

Accordingly, the recipient of the FIT President’s Award for Excellence in 2015 should have developed curriculum that aims to:

- integrate inventive pedagogy in the classroom or in activities outside of the classroom, including experimental curricula and experiential learning;
- infuse creativity, vision, and real-world practicality into a structure with measurable outcomes and evaluative assessments;
- strengthen critical thinking and analytical skills with a focus on active rather than passive learning;
- integrate technology, with a focus on emerging educational technologies and trends in higher education;
- include interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary initiatives and undertakings;
- integrate research experience, activities, and resources;
- cultivate collaborative partnerships among faculty, students and the FIT community;
- build and foster community and industry partnerships.
A seven member committee composed of four classroom faculty members, one non-classroom faculty member, one dean, and one student appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs will solicit and evaluate nominees’ credentials. That committee will make recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and to the President. As many as four full-time faculty members may be selected for the Faculty Excellence Award each year in addition to the selection of the FIT President’s Award for Excellence. Students, faculty members, chairs, or administrators may nominate faculty members for the award. Nominees must be full-time tenured faculty members as of January 1 of the award year. Nominated individuals must have the recommendation of their respective department chairperson/director and dean/area vice president.

Nominee’s Materials:

- A current vita/resume detailing the nominee’s career;
- Samples of at least five syllabi from courses designed and taught by the faculty member at FIT;
- A current pedagogical philosophy (e.g., Faculty of the Future initiatives inclusive of technology, diversity, and sustainability);
- Examples of any scholarly and/or creative work produced by the faculty member to demonstrate consistent activity in the broader academic community. These items might include:
  - publications (books, articles, edited journals and/or essay collections;
  - programs from any exhibitions in which the faculty member participated (as either a contributor or curator);
  - conference papers presented; posters displayed or any materials from any professional presentation in which the applicant participated.
- One (1) letter of support from the department chairperson/director;
- One (1) letter of support from the dean/area vice president;
- One (1) letter of support from two colleagues; and
- One (1) letter of support from two students.

For full consideration, the file must be complete and must include all the materials listed above. Additional materials should not be submitted.