

University of Colorado Denver Annual Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Work Eligibility, Criteria, and Procedures/Documentation

Spring 2026

I. Eligibility

There are two campus-level awards for research/creative work: one for tenured and tenure-track faculty (professors, associate professors, and assistant professors), and one for instructional, research, and clinical faculty (instructional, research, and clinical series, and lecturers).

Faculty members who have been members of the CU Denver Campus faculty for at least the past three years (AY2022-23, AY2023-24, AY2024-25) are eligible. Faculty members who won the campus-level award during the past two years are not eligible this year.

The library and each school and college, except CLAS, may submit one nominee in each of the two categories. CLAS may submit three nominees in each category for the campus-level award.

II. Criteria for Research (past three years only)

Quantitative Criteria

- *Number of publications, including refereed journal articles, refereed presentations at professional conferences, non-refereed articles, books, book chapters, published proceedings, etc.*
- *If appropriate for the discipline, amount of external funds obtained for research, and sources of the funds.*
- *If applicable, extent of collaborative involvement in the nominee's research by students.*

Qualitative Criteria

- *Evidence of impact on the field, discipline, interdisciplinary scholarship, or society by the nominee [for example, number of citations and norms for the field or discipline; memberships on editorial boards or review panels; keynote addresses; book awards; other awards; supportive data from established alternative metrics (e.g., number of page views/downloads of public works); impact on practice; significant professional collaborations; success of student collaborators; unfunded projects that had impacts on the field; and indicators of the quality of journals, such as their rankings]*

- *Evidence of originality of work (e.g., as recognized by colleagues in the field)*
- *Evidence of impact on the mission of the academic unit and the university (e.g., in attracting new faculty members, graduate students, visiting professors; in enhanced educational opportunities for students; etc.)*
- *Level of excellence, productivity and impact given the developmental stage of the nominee.*

Criteria for Creative Work (past three years only)

Quantitative Criteria

- *Number of national and/or international juried and non-juried shows, film festivals, gallery exhibits, museum exhibits, art center exhibits, art exhibitions, musical performances, theatre productions, or media productions—with evidence of the exhibition types, venue quality, and participant caliber.*
- *Number of books (novels, poetry collections, etc.), essays, and articles.*
- *If appropriate for the discipline, amount of external funds, and sources of the funds.*
- *If applicable, extent of collaborative involvement in the nominee's creative work by students.*

Qualitative Criteria

- *Evidence of impact on the field, discipline, interdisciplinary works, or society by the nominee [for example, participation on juries or review panels; impact on practice; significant professional collaborations; success of student collaborators; awards; quality of publishing venues; supportive data from established alternative metrics (e.g., number of downloads of open-access publications and other products); number of citations and norms of the field or discipline; unfunded projects that had impacts on the field]*
- *Evidence of originality of work, as recognized by colleagues in the field.*
- *Evidence of impact on the mission of the academic unit and the university (e.g., in attracting new faculty members, graduate students, visiting professors; in enhanced educational opportunities for students; etc.)*
- *Level of excellence, productivity and impact given the developmental stage of the nominee.*

III. Evidence and Documentation

A. Required

Please create an electronic dossier including the following sections in this order:

1. Completed checklist.
2. One or two letters of support, including one written by the nominee's Dean, Library Director, or Department Chair/Division Coordinator that addresses the criteria for the award.
3. Two- or three-page statement written by the nominee that addresses the criteria for the award.
4. One-to-three-page list of major research and creative works during the past three years. Please organize the activities according to the Faculty Activity Report (FAR) categories, where they apply:
 - Article
[journal, edited volume, encyclopedia, dictionary, short reference, other]
 - Book / Monograph
[scholarly book, scholarly book series, monograph, manual, textbook, trade non-fiction, anthology, collection, compilation, other]
 - Chapter
 - Creative Works
[built environments, plans, installations, exhibitions, books, creative non-fiction, invited readings and presentations, poetry, short stories, scripts (film, television, radio, theatrical, etc.), 3D graphics & animation, art history, design/digital design, director/producer, festivals, film (documentary, narrative), mass media/internet (blogosphere, podcasts, websites), media forensics, music (guitar/strings; jazz; keyboards/percussion; music business; radio; recording arts; singer/songwriter, etc.), new media (computer and/or video games; immersive arts), theatre/stagecraft/storytelling, visual arts (drawing & painting; galleries/museums; illustration; photography; sculpture, etc), professional competitions, other]
 - Presentation
[paper, poster, workshop, seminar, round table, lecture, demonstration, keynote/plenary address, panel discussion, tutorial, other]
 - Published Conference Proceedings
[regular (long) paper, short paper/work in progress report, vision/position paper, poster paper, demo paper, tutorial, abstract, extended abstract, other]

- Published Review
[books and published works reviewed, creative works reviewed, other]
- Reports
[technical/research reports, other]
- Patent
[provisional, non-provisional, other]
- Technology
[computer software/programs, computer hardware, computer system development, datasets, medical/bio-technology, other]
- Other Research
[sabbatical/fellowship activities, published abstracts of your own work, editorship of journals, conference proceedings editorship, other]
- Popular Press
[summaries of research for non-academic audiences, media interviews, popular press magazine articles, practitioner reports, published opinion pieces and editorials, blogs, podcasts, or other online commentary, other]

5. Representative examples of research or creative works from the last three years only.

6. Current vita, prepared according to the standard CU Denver format.

B. Sample dossiers for this award are available in the Center for Faculty Development and Advancement (CFDA). Contact the Center at center.facdevelopment@ucdenver.edu or 303-315-3033.

IV. Procedures

- A. By **Monday, February 16, 2026**, Deans/Library Director or Associate Deans will submit the documentation for their nominees to Betsy Metzger, faculty affairs campus administrator, Office of the Provost.
- Merge everything into a single PDF file and email the attached file to Betsy.Metzger@ucdenver.edu or share the dossier with her via OneDrive or Interfolio.

- B. An ad hoc committee of faculty members who won this award (at the school/college/library level as well as for the campus) during the past two years will select the campus-level winner for the current year.¹

Award winners will be announced in April.

V. Awards

- A. Each school and college and library winner whose dossier is submitted for the campus award will receive a certificate signed by the provost, which will be given at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence.
- B. The campus winner will receive a stipend of \$1,500 and a glass sculpture.
- C. Winners may be asked to give a campus talk.
- D. The school/college/library winners (including the campus winners) for 2025 and 2026 will be invited to serve on the selection committee for the 2027 Excellence in Research/Creative Work Award.

¹ The ad hoc committee for the 2026 award may include: Richard Benninger (2025), Wendy Bolyard (2025), Yosef Bonaparte (2025), Steffen Borgwardt (2024), Michael Brohman (2024), Assia Crawford (2024), Benjamin Crawford (2025), Lisa Forbes (2024), Jamie Hodgkins (2025), Sheila Huss (2024), Lisa Kelley (2024), Kwabena Kesse (2024), Chelsea Magin (2024), Julia Mahfouz (2024), Hani Mansour (2024), Christine Martell (2024), Sean McGowan (2024), Geoffrey Prophetter (2025), Hans Rosenwinkel (2025), Diana Schaack (2025), Adam Spiegler (2024), Mary Lee Stansifer (2025), Rachel Stein (2025), I-hao Victor Woo (2025), and Jing Zhang (2024).

**CHECKLIST: FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN RESEARCH / CREATIVE WORK**

Name of nominee: _____

_____ Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty _____ Instructional/Research/Clinical Faculty

School/college/library: _____

Date: _____

_____ Completed checklist (added by Dean/Director's Office)

_____ One or two letters of support, including one written by the nominee's Dean, Library Director, or Department Chair/Division Coordinator (added by Dean/Director's Office)

_____ Two- or three-page statement written by the nominee that addresses the criteria for the award.

_____ One-to-three-page list of major research and creative works during the past three years

_____ Copies of representative research and creative works from the last three years

_____ Current vita, prepared according to the standard CU Denver format

_____ Complete electronic dossier submitted to Betsy Metzger, faculty affairs campus administrator, Office of the Provost (Betsy.Metzger@ucdenver.edu).