



Friday, February 11, 2022

2021-2022 Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity

The Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity is intended to recognize a faculty member who has accomplished an extraordinary achievement in one or more of the following three areas that foster diversity: contribution to diversity in research, contribution to diversity in teaching, and/or contribution to diversity in service (university or public).

Eligibility

Members of the Academic Senate, including all Senate faculty rank and title who have not previously won the award are eligible. Previous nominees who have not won the award may be nominated again.

Members of the Committee for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are not eligible for this award but may nominate UCM colleagues.

Criteria for Award

Excellence in diversity contributions can be defined by the following:

- Scholarship that has made a significant and lasting impact on diversity in the faculty member's field and/or training students who are historically or currently underrepresented in their field.
- Development of curricula or teaching methods that impact diversity and the mentorship of undergraduate or graduate students who are members of groups who are historically or currently underrepresented in their field.
- University or public service that encourages diversity and equity.

Nomination Process

All Senate members are eligible for nomination by other members of the Academic Senate. Initial nominations should be in the form of a letter (not to exceed two single-spaced, typewritten pages) providing a comprehensive summary of the qualities and accomplishments that would warrant the candidate to be considered for the award. ***The letter should focus on the scope and impact of the diversity efforts*** and should detail the characteristics that make the nominee uniquely qualified for the award. The committee considers nominations with long-term as well as short-term extraordinary contributions to diversity.

Nominations should be submitted electronically as one PDF packet to the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) and must include the following:

- 1) **[A nomination form.](#)**
- 2) **Three letters:**

- a) **One nomination letter** (maximum of two pages) that highlights the extraordinary contributions of the nominee to diversity. This letter should be written by a UCM faculty member who is familiar with the nominee's accomplishments in these areas.
 - b) **Two supporting letters** (maximum length two pages) that are solicited by the nominating faculty. The letters should be written by faculty, student(s), or community member(s) who have an appropriate professional background to comment on the nominee's accomplishments.
- 3) Current and complete curriculum vitae.**
 - 4) Nominee's statement on contributions to diversity.**

Selection Process

The [Senate Committee for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) (EDI) will form an ad-hoc committee from its membership to serve as the EDI Awards Committee with a minimum of three faculty. The EDI Awards Committee will have balanced representation from a range of academic areas and broad school representation. If additional expertise is needed, non-EDI committee members will be appointed by the EDI Chair. The EDI Awards Committee reserves the right to not give an award if there is an insufficient number of nominees, or if nominees do not meet the above criteria for the award.

Based on the initial letters of nomination, the EDI Awards Committee will select a slate of finalists from the pool of nominees. Supporting materials for the finalists may be solicited. All materials and notes will be held in confidence by the EDI Awards Committee.

The EDI Awards Committee will review the nominations and members will submit their first choice candidate or their recommendation that no award is merited, to the Chair of the Awards Committee and the Committee Analyst, with a brief justification for either case. The Awards Committee will select a recipient based on a majority vote. The EDI Awards Committee will complete its selection process and inform the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) of the results. On the recommendation of the Awards Committee, any finalist may be nominated for the award the following year.

Deadline for Nominations: 5:00pm (PST), Thursday, March 31, 2022.

The announcement of the recipient will be made during the UC Merced Spring [Meeting of the Division](#) on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Past Recipients

2020-2021 – [Rudy Ortiz](#)

2019-2020 - [Dalia Magaña](#)

2018-2019 – [Clarissa Nobile](#)