



**MORNINGSIDE
UNIVERSITY**

*The
Sharon Walker
Faculty Excellence
Awards*

The Morningside University experience cultivates
a passion for **lifelong learning** and a dedication
to **ethical leadership** and **civic responsibility**.



Sharon Walker '70

About the Donors

James and Sharon Walker make their home in Wayzata, Minnesota. They were married in 1969 and graduated from Morningside College in 1970.

Sharon has always valued good teaching. She earned a degree in elementary education and taught in Sioux City and Spirit Lake, Iowa. Since 1987, Sharon has been actively involved with Bible Study Fellowship, an interfaith program reaching out across the world with over 900 classes. Sharon is also a volunteer for the Urban Ventures and Rafiki ministries.

Jim graduated with a degree in business administration and psychology. He joined Old Northwest Agents, Inc., Bloomington, Minnesota, in 1976 and became President and Chief Executive Officer of the firm in 1984. Today Jim is President and Chief Executive Officer of Heim Walker in Minneapolis.

The Walkers have actively supported Morningside since their graduation. Jim and Sharon have been friends and mentors to faculty, staff and students. Their generous gifts of time and treasure have directly contributed to the enormous sense of optimism for this college's future. Jim has chaired the last three campaigns which will have raised over \$100 million for Morningside.

In 2001, Morningside College awarded Jim and Sharon honorary Doctor of Laws degrees for their selfless service to community, church, and college.

Statement of Purpose

The Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards were established in 2003 to:

- Reward teaching excellence
- Recognize the importance of advising
- Inspire faculty to strive for greater teaching excellence
- Provide faculty development opportunities
- Attract new faculty to Morningside University

Program

Teaching is the most important responsibility of Morningside's faculty. Good, small universities also value strong faculty advising. Morningside's faculty members play pivotal roles in student enrollment, retention, and maturation. The Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards are tangible symbols of Morningside's commitment to teaching, advising, scholarship, and service.

Five finalists for this award are selected each year and receive a \$2000 faculty development grant. Three awards are given and come with a \$10,000 cash honorarium.

Recipients have the obligation of giving presentations to their colleagues, the Board of Directors, alumni groups, students, and others, upon the invitation of the President of Morningside University.

Selection

General Process

Each year the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Award recipients are chosen by the Selection Committee, a panel of three outside evaluators. The President of Morningside University, the Office of Academic Affairs, and Jim and Sharon Walker give final ratification to the selected recipients. The Selection Committee will provide the name of an alternate should extraordinary circumstances disqualify one of the recipients.

Awardees will be announced at the annual awards dinner.

Criteria

Sharon and Jim Walker, based on their personal experiences as students at Morningside and their continuing interaction with students and faculty for over thirty years, have identified the following criteria upon which to base selection of the recipients:

1. Teaching excellence
2. Effective advising
3. Scholarship
4. Service

Awards are based upon the accomplishments and activities of a faculty member during the previous academic year.

Eligibility

All full-time teaching faculty members at Morningside University whose contracts will be renewed for the next academic year are eligible to apply for the awards.

A faculty member is only eligible to win an award once every three years.

Application Process

Applications for the Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Award are due in the Office of Academic Affairs by noon on August 31, 2023. All application materials should be submitted electronically via Google Drive link to the Office of Academic Affairs (alvarezk@morningside.edu) (only Microsoft Office and/or PDF files recommended). **Applicants should submit the names and contact information for up to three students (or alumni who were students last year) to the Office of Academic Affairs by no later than August 18th (earlier is preferred).**

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is comprised of faculty members from institutions similar in size and mission to Morningside University and comparable to schools in Morningside's aspirant group. Over time, committee membership should reflect the academic diversity of Morningside University.

Selection Committee members are invited to serve three-year non-renewable terms. Terms are staggered to provide continuity to the committee.

Members of the Morningside University faculty may not serve on the Selection Committee.

Selection Committee Duties

The Selection Committee interprets the criteria. The Committee reviews all complete applications and letters of recommendation and agrees upon a list of candidates to review during an on-campus visit during the fall semester. Each Selection Committee may structure its campus visit in a way it feels appropriate.

The President of Morningside University, in consultation with the Office of Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate, and the current Selection Committee members, recommends new Committee members to the Walkers for their review.

Previous Award Recipients

2022

Kimberly M. Christopherson, Professor of Education
Thomas H. Paulsen, Professor of Applied Agricultural
and Food Studies
Shelby R. Prindaville, Associate professor of Art

2021

Anni Moore, Associate Professor of Biology
Elizabeth R. Coody, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Twyla R. Rosenbaum, Associate Professor of Accounting

2019

Shannon E. Claxton, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Gregory P. Guelcher, Professor of History
Leslie A. Werden, Professor of English

2018

Suzanne R. Hendrix-Case, Assistant Professor of Music
Jessica A. LaPaglia, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Twyla R. Rosenbaum, Associate Professor of
Business Administration

2017

David E. Elder, Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric
Brian H. McFarland, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Christopher L. Spicer, Associate Professor of Mathematics

2016

Valerie M. Hennings, Assistant Professor of Political
Science
Jessica C. Pleuss, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Timothy M. Sesterhenn, Assistant Professor of Biology

2015

Susanne L. Lubbers, Assistant Professor of Education
Jeremy L. Schnieder, Assistant Professor of
Writing and Rhetoric
J. Alden Stout, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

2014

Anthony J. Kern, Associate Professor of Biology
Patrick F. McKinlay, Professor of Political Science
Christopher L. Spicer, Assistant Professor of
Mathematical Sciences

2013

Kimberly M. Christopherson, Associate Professor
of Psychology
Heather L. Reid, Professor of Philosophy
Jill M. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Music

2012

Jackie R. Barber, Professor of Nursing

Jessica L. de Vega, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

David E. Elder, Assistant Professor of Writing & Rhetoric

2011

Brenda J. Mammenga, Assistant Professor of
Mathematical Sciences

Jeremy L. Schnieder, Assistant Professor of Writing & Rhetoric

Christopher L. Spicer, Assistant Professor of
Mathematical Sciences

2010

Kimberly M. Christopherson, Assistant Professor of
Psychology

William H. Heyborne, Assistant Professor of Biology

James J. March, Professor of Music

2009

Jessica L. deVega, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Sharlene E. Georgesen, Assistant Professor of Nursing **Heather**

L. Reid, Professor of Philosophy

2008

Susan R. Burns, Associate Professor of Psychology

Gregory P. Guelcher, Associate Professor of History
& Political Science

Rachel L. Robson, Assistant Professor of Biology

2007

Sam H. Clovis, Professor, Chair of Business
Administration and Economics

Bruce D. Forbes, Professor and Chair of Religious Studies

Leslie A. Werden, Assistant Professor of
Composition and Rhetoric

2006

Jackie R. Barber, Associate Professor of Nursing

Lillian J. Lopez, Associate Professor of History
& Political Science

Dean L. Stevens, Associate Professor of
Mathematical Sciences

2005

Michael J. Buse, Assistant Professor of
Mass Communication

Gail Dooley, Associate Professor of Music

James C. Stroh, Associate Professor of Biology

2004

Susan R. Burns, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Stephen B. Coyne, Professor of English

Heather L. Reid, Associate Professor of Philosophy

2003

Bruce D. Forbes, Professor of Religious Studies

Gregory P. Guelcher, Associate Professor of History
& Political Science

Douglas C. Livermore, Professor of Business
Administration and Economics

Walker Award Evaluators

2023 Selection Committee

Daniel D. Ebeling

Professor of Chemistry, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Leon Tabak

Professor of Computer Science, Cornell College

Judith Walden

Professor of History Chair, Humanities Division, Simpson College

Former Selection Committee Members

Molly M. Fitzke

Director of the Nursing Programs and Associate Professor of Nursing, Nebraska Wesleyan University

James L. Martin

Professor of Music, Cornell College

Patrick L. Mathews

Professor of Biology; Director of Zoo Science, Friends University

Paula A. Schmidt

Chair and Associate Professor of Education, Clarke University

Kimberly A. Jarvis

Professor of History, Doane College

David M. Dobson

Associate Professor of Geology, Guilford College

Christopher P. Gilbert

Professor of Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College

John Krebs

Professor of Music, Hendrix College

Suzette L. Astley

Professor of Psychology, Cornell College

Ann Cannon

Associate Professor of Statistics and Mathematics, Cornell College

Stephen F. Davis

Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Emporia State University

William N. Withers

Grant L. Price Department Chair (endowed) and Associate Professor of Communication Arts, Wartburg College

Leslie A. Gregg-Jolly

Associate Professor of Biology, Grinnell College

Thomas N. Howe

Professor of Art and Art History, Southwestern University

Kevin W. Kraus

Professor of Biology and Associate Dean, Luther College

Raymond B. Williams

Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Emeritus, Wabash College