

The Newman University Faculty Excellence Award

The Newman Faculty Excellence Award (NFEA) seeks to celebrate Newman University's extraordinary faculty by recognizing three exemplary recipients each year. The award comes with a \$10,000 honorarium to be used as the awardee sees fit.

Criteria

The NFEA identifies teaching excellence, effective advising, scholarship, and service to be the criteria for evaluation of the recipients. Given that Newman is primarily a teaching institution, excellence in teaching takes primacy as a criterion for the Award. Each of the other criteria can be seen as related to teaching.

1. *Teaching Excellence* – Five components comprise effective teaching – 1) vision; 2) course design and management; 3) instruction and learning environment, 4) assessment and feedback; and, 5) reflection. Means to demonstrate these components in a portfolio may include:
 - Vision – A current teaching vision or philosophy
 - Course Design and Management – Syllabi demonstrating learning outcomes that align with learning activities.
 - Instruction and Learning Environment – Student and peer evaluations that demonstrate the activities and environment fostered in the course.
 - Assessment and Feedback – Exams, papers, group projects, and other assessments along with a description of how these artifacts provide evidence of student learning.
 - Reflection – Demonstration by the faculty member of how feedback from students and other data are used to implement positive change and improve teaching and learning.
2. *Advising* – Advising can mean different things to different individuals. For this award's purpose, advising will be viewed as a developmental rather than a prescriptive process empowering students. Faculty members' intellectual lives reflect a passion for life-long learning that should be shared with students. Effective advising requires careful listening, thoughtful advice, and necessary referrals, all aimed at assisting students to meet their educational goals. Effective advising should help students transition from high school/community college to Newman, from new college students to effective and successful college students, and from effective college students to successful graduates. Advising should be defined as more than working with first-year or major advisees and can include working with other students or student groups. Effective advisors are actively engaged in the life of the college, both in and out of the classroom.
3. *Scholarship* – The nature of scholarship is evolving throughout higher education and at NU with interpretations as rich and diverse as the faculty talent on campus. At a small private university, different types of scholarship are quite appropriate. It is important that all faculty members engage in activities which keep them intellectually engaged and enthusiastic about their role as faculty members. While some discussions of scholarship must apply to all, the role scholarship plays in keeping faculty members intellectually alive and renewed may vary greatly.
 - The scholarship of discovery refers to basic research within one's discipline that results in the creation of new knowledge.
 - The scholarship of integration places specialized research into a larger context or makes connections across disciplinary lines.
 - The scholarship of application is the use of knowledge to solve consequential problems or to help individuals and institutions.

- The scholarship of teaching includes keeping up with current developments, designing ways to facilitate student learning, and/or researching the methodology of teaching.
4. *Service* – Faculty members advance the mission of NU, create an environment for superior student learning, and enhance the reputation of the university in a variety of ways. For example, assistance with admissions or development efforts and effective service on committees are tangible and useful forms of service. Leadership beyond the campus in scholarly societies, civic organizations, or charitable agencies, extends the reach and good reputation of the university and provides positive examples for our students, members of our local community, and other constituencies of liberally educated citizens.

Process

Applications for NFEA are due to the Office of the VPAA by **August 30th**. All application materials should be digital and placed in a zipped file and emailed to Melanie Flanagan (flanaganw@newmanu.edu). The Selection Committee will review the applications and identify up to 5 finalists. The committee will be on campus in the fall, visit a classroom of each finalist, and engage each finalist in a conversation about how they fulfill the spirit of the criteria. The committee will select three awardees from the five finalists and forward those names to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for ratification.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee (SC) of the NFEA will be comprised of three individuals currently serving on a faculty of an Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) or a Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) institution. The SC will have broad representation. The SC will be independent from NU administration, faculty, staff, or Trustees. The SC's decision will be honored and adhered to by NU.

Announcement of the Newman Faculty Excellence Award

The award recipients will be announced at the annual Faculty Celebration Banquet designed to highlight and celebrate the work of the faculty at Newman. Finalists for the NFEA will be notified by the Selection Committee in early September. All finalists will receive a minimum of \$2,000. Award winners will be eligible to apply three years after their award.

Application for the Newman Faculty Excellence Award

2024

Name: _____ Department: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Courses taught during the 2023-2024 academic year (please list prefix, number, title, credit hours, and enrollment for each course). Please include a course syllabus, and any available summarized assessment data for each of these courses.

Co-curricular or other activities involving you and students (please list as precisely as possible, including dates of the activities).

Additional Information required for the Newman Faculty Excellence Award Application

- Current curriculum vita or resume.
- Names of up to three faculty or staff colleagues from whom you have requested letters of recommendation.

TEACHING

- A general overview of you as a teacher and your current teaching vision
 - Why do you teach?
 - What do you find rewarding about teaching?
 - Describe the principles that underlie your teaching (a statement of your teaching philosophy).
 - What are your goals for your student's intellectual development in your courses?
- List and describe your teaching accomplishments for the years 2023-2024.
- Pick **one course** you taught during 2023-2024 and attach a set of the course materials (assignments, copies of web pages, etc.) for this course. Include a statement that explains these materials.

ADVISING

- How have you prepared yourself to become or continue to be an effective advisor?
- Describe your approach to working with advisees (note that advising could include working with first-year advisees, major advisees, student groups, or other students).
- List and describe your advising activities and accomplishments for the year 2023-2024.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Describe what constitutes scholarship in your discipline.
- List and describe your accomplishments in the area of scholarship for the year 2023-2024 (what activities have you completed during the past year which have kept you intellectually engaged and enthusiastic about your role as a member of the faculty at Newman University?).

SERVICE

- How have your service activities advanced the mission of the University and enhanced its good reputation?

- List and describe your service activities for the years 2023-2024.