COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Arthur “Red” Motley Exemplary Teaching Award

The award is sponsored by a gift from the family and friends of the College of Liberal Arts alumnus Arthur Motley and alumni of the College.

Nature and Purpose:

The purpose of the award is to recognize faculty who are outstanding teachers of graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts. Each award carries a stipend of $5,000; at least one award is given annually.

Criteria:

This award is an appropriate way to utilize the meaning of Red Motley’s life to encourage future generations. It should acknowledge tenured or tenure-track faculty who inspire and care, who make themselves approachable, who show an interest in individual students’ well-being and in programs for the benefit of students generally, who give of themselves generously in advising, counseling, and directing projects, and who create an active classroom atmosphere. Such faculty provide a model to undergraduate and graduate students through their own research and teaching, and leave an impression by their efforts which alumni recall with appreciation and esteem.

Distinguished teaching includes scholarly mastery of material as evidenced by productivity and pedagogical sophistication. Some faculty makes particularly significant contributions through developing new courses, organizing or reorganizing curricular programs, or improving teaching methods and techniques. In sum, the recipient of this award will have enhanced the lives of University of Minnesota students.

Eligibility:

1. current (tenured or tenure-track) regular CLA faculty members;
2. at least five academic years at the University of Minnesota (including the current academic year);
3. previous recipients eligible 20 years after receipt of the award;
4. must be nominated by five current or former students (either five persons may each complete a nomination form, or five persons may sign a single form;)
5. a faculty member may be nominated for other CLA or University of Minnesota awards in the same year. However, winners of the University of Minnesota Morse-Alumni and Graduate-Professional awards are not eligible for the Motley award in the same year.

Nomination:

At least five CLA students (current or former, graduate or undergraduate) must nominate an individual for the Red Motley award. All nominations must be submitted to the CLA Office for Undergraduate Programs. When five nominations are received, the College will request that the department prepare a dossier on the nominee. A CLA committee will review dossiers.
Review Committee:

The CLA review committee is chaired by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs or his/her designee, and includes five CLA student representatives, two CLA alumni board representatives, and two CLA faculty members. The committee reviews the dossiers submitted for nominees, and makes recommendations to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Presentation of Award:

The Dean notifies the recipient by letter. The recipient receives the award at the CLA spring commencement ceremony, and is expected to make a brief (5-7 minute) speech on the importance of teaching.

Organization and Presentation of Dossier:

The candidate’s department should submit an original plus nine copies of the candidate’s dossier to 113 Johnston Hall. Each copy must include the following materials in the order listed below:

1. The dossier cover sheet attached to these guidelines.

2. A statement of no more than two pages, presenting the full case for the nomination. The statement should describe the nominee’s qualifications with specific reference to the criteria listed whenever appropriate. The statement is normally prepared by the department chair, or by some other individual who assumes primary responsibility for assembling the dossier.

3. The candidate’s curriculum vitae.

4. A personal statement of no more than one page by the nominee, describing his or her philosophy of teaching.

5. No more than seven supporting letters citing specific examples in support of the case. Letters may be from students, alumni, staff, faculty, administrators, or non-university references. At least five of the seven letters must be from current or former students.

6. A summary of no more than two pages, prepared by the department chair, describing the individual’s teaching activities during the past five years. This should include a summary of the courses taught by the individual, and a general description of the results of student evaluation of the candidate’s teaching. There should also be a description of the individual’s interaction with students in teaching venues outside the classroom (e.g., in laboratory, tutorial, or studio instruction).