

The Graduate School Calls for Award Nominations Packet

The Graduate School welcomes nominations for its annual awards. It is our pleasure to recognize the outstanding students, faculty, staff, and administrators who make Clemson graduate education a transformative experience through their contributions as learners, educators, and leaders.

This packet provides criteria, internal due dates, eligibility, nomination and selection processes, and award information for each award presented by The Graduate School. Please pay close attention to the information provided and adhere to the deadlines and requirements for each. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Questions should be directed to the Graduate School via Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu or Dr. Natasha Croom nncroom@clemson.edu.

Frankie O. Felder Graduate Student Award of Excellence¹

Norsaadeh Hussain International Graduate Student Support Award²

Graduate School Award for Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion³

Clemson University Distinguished Graduate Student Support Staff Award²

Clemson University Distinguished Doctoral Mentoring Award²

Outstanding Graduate Researcher Award¹

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award¹

Conference of Southern Graduate School Awards

Outstanding Mentor Award (Faculty)²

Master's Thesis Award (Student/Graduate)¹

Outstanding Contributions Award (Open)³

The Council of Graduate School Awards Distinguished Dissertation Award¹

Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee Roster

*The Graduate School reserves the right to not award all each year; **1-** Student Awards, **2-** Staff/Faculty Awards, **3-** Students, Staff, Faculty

Frankie O. Felder Graduate Student Award of Excellence

Criteria: The annual Frankie O. Felder Graduate Student Award of Excellence is presented to one graduating masters student or doctoral candidate who (a) **is an inspiring presence for peers and others through perseverance or resilience in the face of challenges or adversity**, and (b) **exhibits academic excellence as determined by high performance and engaged activity in several aspects of the academic program.**

Dr. Frankie O. Felder, Senior Associate Dean Emeritus, was an inspirational model for persistence and academic excellence during her 32 years as a leader at Clemson University. Dr. Felder made a substantial impact on Clemson through various capacities during her career serving in such important roles as Assistant Dean for International Programs and Services and Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School. She was not only the first African American Dean at Clemson but also one of the first women to serve as a dean.

Deadline: February 15

Eligibility: Graduate students and candidates set to graduate in the immediate proceeding May/spring, August/summer, or December/fall graduations.

Nomination and Selection Process: Nominations for the award may be submitted by faculty, staff, or student peers on behalf of the student/candidate nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from a faculty member, staff member, or student peer describing how the nominated student exemplifies the award criteria. The letter should be signed by both the nominator and the nominated student, to indicate acceptance of the nomination.
- Copy of the nominated student's vita or resume
- Copy of the nominated student's unofficial transcript
- *Optional:* One (1) additional letter of support (2 pg. max) or artifact may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required

Completed nomination packets should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Award winners will be notified in April. Recipients will be acknowledged at a university ceremony.

Award: Commemorative medallion; cash prize

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Norsaadeh Hussain International Graduate Student Support Award

Criteria: The annual Norsaadeh Hussain Award is presented in conjunction with the Office of Global Engagement to one staff or faculty member to recognize and celebrate their excellence in **supporting international graduate students**, whether that be in **advancing their academic success and professional development and/or enhancing their overall experience and inclusion at Clemson.**

Deadline: March 1

Eligibility: All full-time Clemson University staff and faculty members. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards but are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations and Selection Process: Nominations for the award may be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, or program graduates on behalf of the staff nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, or program graduates describing how the nominee exemplifies the award criteria.
- *Optional:* Up to three (3) additional letters of support (2 pg. max/each) may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

Completed nomination packets should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Award winners will be notified in April. Recipients will be acknowledged on stage at a doctoral commencement.

The Office of Global Engagement will facilitate fund transfers for departments. Award recipients will be invited to share their philosophies and practices of international graduate student support at OGE and Graduate School sponsored events.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient; \$500 to department to support activities for current/future international graduate students

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Graduate School Award for Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Criteria: The annual Graduate School Award for Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is presented to one graduate student, staff, or faculty member to recognize their commitment to **advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through their engagement in graduate education** at Clemson University.

Deadline: March 1

Eligibility: All Clemson University graduate students, staff, and faculty members engaged in graduate education. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards but are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations and Selection Process: Nominations for the award may be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, program graduates, or individuals external to the Clemson community on behalf of the student, staff, or faculty nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, program graduates, or individuals external to the Clemson community describing how the nominated person exemplifies the award criteria.
- *Optional:* Up to three (3) additional letters of support (2 pg. max/each) may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

Completed nomination packets should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Award winners will be notified in April. Recipients will be acknowledged on stage at a doctoral commencement.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient; certificate

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Clemson University Distinguished Graduate Student Support Staff Award

Criteria: The annual Distinguished Graduate Student Support Staff Award is presented to one staff member to recognize and celebrate their excellence in **supporting graduate students**, whether that be from the inquiry and application phase to graduation and placement.

Deadline: March 1

Eligibility: All full-time Clemson University staff members that support graduate student services as a primary responsibility (e.g., admissions, enrolled student services, etc.) – this does not include those with regular and special faculty designation (see: Distinguished Doctoral Mentoring Award). Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards but are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations and Selection Process: Nominations for the award may be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, or program graduates on behalf of the staff nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from faculty, staff, administrators, current graduate students/candidates, or program graduates describing how the nominated staff member exemplifies the award criteria.
- *Optional:* Up to three (3) additional letters of support (2 pg. max/each) may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

Completed nomination packets should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Award winners will be notified in April. Recipients will be acknowledged on stage at a doctoral commencement.

The Graduate School will facilitate fund transfers for departments. The Graduate School will also invite award recipients to share their philosophies and practices of graduate student support at Graduate School sponsored programs/events.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient; \$500 to department to support activities for current/future graduate students

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Clemson University Distinguished Doctoral Mentoring Award

Criteria: The annual Distinguished Doctoral Mentoring Award is presented to two faculty members to recognize and celebrate their **excellence in mentoring doctoral students**.

Deadline: March 1

Eligibility: All full-time Clemson University faculty members with Graduate Faculty Status – this does not include staff (see: Distinguished Graduate Student Support Staff Award). Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards but are encouraged to submit nominations.

Nominations and Selection Process: Nominations for the award may be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, current doctoral students/candidates, or doctoral program graduates on behalf of the faculty nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from faculty, staff, administrators, current doctoral students/candidates, or doctoral program graduates describing how the nominated faculty member exemplifies the award criteria.
- *Optional:* Up to three (3) additional letters of support (2 pg. max/each) may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

Completed nomination packets should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. One recipient will be identified from each of two college groupings (based on similar numbers of tenure-stream faculty): Group 1 CAAH, CBSHS, CBUS, and COE, Group 2 CAFLS, CECAS, and COS. Award winners will be notified in April. Recipients will be acknowledged on stage at a doctoral commencement.

The Graduate School will facilitate fund transfers for departments. The Graduate School will also invite award recipients to share their philosophies and practices of graduate student mentoring at Graduate School sponsored programs/events.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient; \$500 to department to support activities for current/future graduate students

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemsn.edu

Outstanding Graduate Researcher Award

Criteria: The annual Outstanding Graduate Researcher Award is presented to two graduate student researchers to recognize their **outstanding contributions to research activity, future promise as a researcher, and/or originality, imagination and significance of research or creative activity.**

Deadline: March 15

Eligibility: All current graduate students and candidates engaged in research (includes graduate research assistants (GRAs) and graduate students on fellowships). Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards.

Nominations and Selection Process: The nominations process should be created and facilitated by the awards committees of each College. Nominations should emerge from departments and the College's Awards Committee should decide on **two (2) nominees to forward to the Graduate School on behalf of the College.**

Nominations for the award should, in general, be submitted by faculty on behalf of the student/candidate nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- Nomination form: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/files/pdfs/OGR.pdf> (this form includes the items below)
- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from a faculty member describing how the nominated student/candidate exemplifies the award criteria.
- Copy of the nominated student's vita
- *Optional:* One (1) additional letter of support (2 pg. max/each) from a faculty member may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

The completed nomination packet for the one (1) student/candidate College nominee should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Two recipients will be identified, and award winners will be notified in April.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Criteria: The annual Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award is presented to two graduate student teaching assistants (GTAs) to recognize their **outstanding contributions to student learning and development across academic spaces (i.e., classrooms, laboratories, etc.)**.

Deadline: March 15

Eligibility: All current graduate students and candidates with graduate teaching assistantships. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for future awards.

Nominations and Selection Process: The nominations process should be created and facilitated by the awards committees of each College. Nominations should emerge from departments and the College's Awards Committee should decide on **two (2) nominees to forward to the Graduate School on behalf of the College**.

Nominations for the award should, in general, be submitted by faculty on behalf of the student/candidate nominee. Nomination packets must include the following items to be considered complete and reviewed.

- Nomination form: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/files/pdfs/OGTA.pdf> (this form includes the items below)
- One (1) letter of nomination (2 pg. max) from a faculty member describing how the nominated student/candidate exemplifies the award criteria.
- Two (2) letters of nomination (2 pg. max) from students, with whom the nominee has taught in some capacity, describing how the nominated GTA exemplifies the award criteria.
- *Optional:* One (1) additional letter of support (2 pg. max/each) from a faculty member may be submitted concurrent with the nomination but is not required.

The completed nomination packet for the one (1) student/candidate College nominee should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Two recipients will be identified, and award winners will be notified in April.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Conference of Southern Graduate School Awards

Each year the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) gives three awards at their annual conference. Deans of graduate schools make nominations to the Conference on behalf of the university.

Criteria: The following awards are available for nominations. Visit links below for information on specific criteria, eligibility, and materials.

- Outstanding Mentor Award (Faculty) <http://www.csgs.org/awards/outstanding-mentor-award/>
- Master's Thesis Award (Student/Graduate) <http://www.csgs.org/awards/master-thesis-award/>
- Outstanding Contributions Award (Open) <http://www.csgs.org/awards/award-for-outstanding-contributions-to-graduate-education-in-the-southern-region/>

Deadline: September 15

Nominations and Selection Process: The nominations process should be created and facilitated by the awards committees of each College. Nominations should emerge from departments and the College's Awards Committee should decide on **one (1) nominee to forward to the Graduate School on behalf of the College.**

Nomination packets should include all materials as noted in the links above. The completed nomination packet for the one (1) College nominee should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. Selected representative nominations will be forwarded by the CGS **November deadlines.** Awards are presented at the CSGS conference in the Spring term. The Graduate School will coordinate logistics with any Clemson winners.

Award: \$1000 award to recipient; commemorative plaque

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

The Council of Graduate School Awards

Each year the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) awards the CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award at their annual conference in rotating fields and disciplines. Deans of graduate schools make nominations to the Conference on behalf of the university.

Criteria: Visit the link for information on fields/discipline for the year, specific criteria, eligibility, and materials: <https://cgsnet.org/awards-0>

Deadline: April 25

Nominations and Selection Process: The nominations process should be created and facilitated by the awards committees of each College. Nominations should emerge from departments and the College's Awards Committee should decide on **one (1) nominee to forward to the Graduate School on behalf of the College.**

Nomination packets should include all materials as noted in the link above. The completed nomination packet for the one (1) College nominee should be converted to one pdf document and emailed to Dena Smith. Nomination packets are reviewed and selected by the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee. The selected representative nomination will be forwarded by the CGS **July deadlines.** Awards are presented at the CGS conference in the Fall term. The Graduate School will coordinate logistics with any Clemson winners.

Award: \$2000 award to recipient; certificate of recognition

Graduate School Point of Contact: Dena Smith denas@clemson.edu

Graduate Fellowships and Awards Committee Representatives

College	Representative	Contact info	College	Representative	Contact info
CAFLS	Churamani Khanal <i>Plant & Enviro Sciences</i>	ckhanal@clemsun.edu	CECAS	Rod Harrell <i>Elec & Comp Eng</i>	wharrel@clemsun.edu
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Committee Chair (nonvoting)	Natasha Croom <i>Associate Dean Graduate School</i>	656-4172 nncroom@clemsun.edu			