Professors of the Year: Criteria

The primary characteristic the judges consider is an extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching, which should be demonstrated by excellence in the following areas:

- Impact on and involvement with undergraduate students;
- Scholarly approach to teaching and learning;
- Contributions to undergraduate education in the institution, community, and profession; and
- Support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

The Judging Process

The selection process for the U.S. Professors of the Year has several stages. Each candidate is chosen from many qualified peers on campuses nationwide and nominated for the award. In fact, institutions find that the process of identifying candidates is an effective way to review how they evaluate and reward excellent teaching. Once CASE receives your nomination, we will ensure your professors are judged in all competitions for which they are eligible and will categorize nominations according to the appropriate Carnegie classification.

CASE convenes the first two panels of experts composed of senior academic offici faculty members; education reporters; students; and government, corporate, foundation, and association representatives who assess the nominees.

The first panel selects approximately 100 semifinalists. The second panel determines 24 finalists. These nominations are then forwarded to the Carnegie Foundation, which convenes the third and final panel.

This grand jury, which usually includes a former U.S. Professor of the Year, an education association and campus representatives, selects the outstanding U.S. professors in the four categories and completes the selection of one winner from each state, provided there are winning entries.
About the Program: U.S. Professors of the Year

What Winners Receive / How Your Institution Benefits

The goal of the U.S. Professors of the Year Program is to increase awareness of the importance of undergraduate instruction. In recognizing faculty members for their achievements as teachers, the award gives institutions an opportunity to celebrate excellence and provide models for faculty and students.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education began the program in 1986 and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching became a partner major sponsor the following year. The program is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Each year, The Carnegie Foundation and CASE name four national-level winners selected from hundreds of nominations from higher education institutions across the country, the District of Columbia and Guam. National winners are selected in four categories based on the following Carnegie classifications: baccalaureate colleges; community colleges; doctoral and research universities; and master's universities colleges.

Carnegie and CASE also name state winners from the entries that meet the program's demanding criteria. The primary characteristic the judges consider is an extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching which should be demonstrated by excellence in the following areas:

- Impact on and involvement with undergraduate students;
- Scholarly approach to teaching, and learning;
- Contributions to undergraduate education in the institution, community, and profession; and
- Support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

What Winners Receive

National winners receive:

- $5,000 in cash, contributed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement Teaching;
- An invitation and opportunity to speak at the November awards ceremony at other honorary celebrations in Washington, DC. (CASE will pay all expenses for the winners and the airfare for one guest for each national-level winner);
- An elegant, framed certificate of recognition. Throughout the year, each of the four Professors of the Year also may participate in several ongoing activities to highlight the importance of teaching, such as media interviews, public service announcements, speaking engagements, and teaching forums; and
- National media coverage.
State winners receive:

- An invitation to the November awards ceremony and other honorary celebrat in Washington, DC;
- An elegant certificate of recognition; and
- Media exposure.

How Your Institution Benefits

To maximize the benefits for your institution, you could involve the nominee or w in your current campus actives or create new projects to feature your outstanding professor. Why not...

- Hold professional development seminars, featuring the professor as a "maste teacher";
- Include feature articles in your alumni periodical, annual report, fundraising materials, and student recruitment publications;
- Host special events for donors;
- Invite local K-12 teachers from the professor's area of expertise to a seminar where they can learn about recent advances and issues in the field; or
- Enlist the professor to help recruit other excellent faculty to your institution.

Past winners have been asked to be guests on local radio talk shows and to speak before numerous business, civic, and professional groups. These winners also hav generated additional gifts, grants, and admissions applications for their institutio