A central mission of all 15 Michigan public universities is the provision of undergraduate education of the highest quality. The Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year recognition program recognizes the outstanding contributions made by the faculty from Michigan’s public universities to the education of undergraduate students.

Eligibility Criteria
Eligible candidates must hold the rank of full professor at one of Michigan’s 15 public universities and display a special commitment to undergraduate education.

Selection Criteria
Each member institution of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan will nominate one faculty member annually for this award. Candidate selection is to be based on the impact the faculty member has had on student learning. Evidence may include the amount, quality and impact of interaction with undergraduate students in the classroom, through advising, support of undergraduate research and other experiential learning environments, and contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning. It is the responsibility of the nominating institution to prepare a nomination package of not more than eight pages (including appendices) that includes a letter of endorsement from the provost, a statement of teaching philosophy and a narrative that highlights the contributions of the nominee to undergraduate education at their institution and beyond.

Selection Committee
A selection committee composed of representatives from five Presidents Council universities will select three faculty for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award from the individuals nominated by member institutions. Initially, the selection committee will be composed of five provosts or provost-designees selected by the executive director of the Presidents Council. After a transition period (to be determined), the selection committee will consist of a permanent membership of three provosts and two prior award recipients with three year staggered terms.

Award Distribution and Recognition
The Presidents Council will annually host an awards ceremony to recognize all nominated faculty and announce the three Michigan Distinguished Professors of the Year. Each nominee will receive a special Presidents Council plaque. In addition, each of the three Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year honorees will receive a cash award of $3,000, to be funded by the Presidents Council.

Annual Programmatic Calendar

October 1 – The Presidents Council will make a call for nominations for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

February 1 – Institutional nominations are due in the Presidents Council office.

Mid February – The selection committee will meet to review nominations and select the three Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year honorees.

Early April – The Presidents Council will host an awards ceremony in Lansing to recognize all nominated faculty and the three Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year honorees.

Endorsed by the Presidents Council Board June 21, 2006