



# RESEARCH

## 2026 REGENTS DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARDS

### Award Philosophy and Guidelines

The Regents Distinguished Research Award recognizes research excellence at Oklahoma State University. The term *research* includes all scholarly, scientific, and creative activities. Recipients of the award will be selected based on the evidence of outstanding and meritorious achievements in research. The candidates must demonstrate a distinguished record of past and continuing excellence in research.

### Awards

Each award will be comprised of a \$2,000 permanent increase in annual salary plus associated fringe benefits and an award plaque. Each college that submits the required nominations (see below) will receive one award per year, except the College of Arts and Sciences will receive two (one of which will be in the sciences and one in the arts and humanities).

### Eligibility and Nomination Criteria

- Full-time faculty members (in any faculty appointment) who have been at OSU for four or more years as of the application deadline. Note that this includes tenure line as well as research faculty appointments.
- Evidence of excellence of the nominee's research accomplishments.
- An individual can receive the award no more than twice.
- Each college must submit two nominations, except for the College of Arts and Sciences which must submit four (two nominations must be from the sciences and two from the arts/humanities disciplines).

### Required Documentation

\*All documentation MUST BE provided from internal OSU sources. Outside letters of nomination/recommendation will not be accepted.

1. A letter of nomination (generally written by a colleague but could be written by the nominee) which includes an impact statement (maximum of 2 pages) summarizing the nominee's research, scholarship, creative contributions, and its impact on their field.
2. One additional letter of recommendation from the unit head.
  - a. If a unit head is nominated, then a letter of recommendation from the dean is required.
  - b. If the unit head writes the nomination letter, then the additional letter of recommendation can come from any faculty colleague (within OSU).

3. Biographical Sketch Information – professional preparation; appointments; products/publications; and synergistic activities. (Note: This information is submitted as part of the online form.)

### **Suggestions for Nominees**

- To aid the individuals writing the letter of nomination and the letter of recommendation, the nominee may want to give the letter writers a brief statement (4-5 sentences) describing the scope of impact their research contributions have had on the field. Additionally, the nominee may wish to provide an abbreviated CV (<= 5 pages) that emphasizes the scope and context of their research/scholarly accomplishments across their career.

### **Award Process**

- Deans, unit Heads, and Associate Deans for Research will be notified early in the spring semester of the availability of this award.
- Colleges will develop a process whereby nominations are accepted and selected for submission.
- Two nominations for each college award, except for the College of Arts & Sciences which must submit four (two nominations from the sciences and two from the arts/humanities), will then be forwarded by the Dean of the college to the Vice President for Research (VPR) for consideration by the university selection committee.
- Complete nomination packages from the colleges will be due in the VPR office by **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. Complete application packets with all components must be received via the online application portal by the deadline. (Once colleges have determined their respective nominees, ADRs will share the link to the online application portal with the appropriate individuals.)
- The selection committee's recommendation will be due to the VPR no later than June 15, 2026.
- The awards will be presented at the University Awards Convocation.

### **Selection Committee**

The committee will be chaired on a rotating basis by one of the Associate Deans for Research according to the following schedule:

Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources  
Arts and Sciences  
Business  
\*Education and Human Sciences  
Engineering, Architecture and Technology  
Veterinary Medicine

Other committee members will be identified from the following groups:

- One undergraduate research scholar (currently a Wentz or Niblack scholar)
- One graduate student
- Two faculty council members, one from the research committee and one at large

- One Associate Dean for Research, committee chair from previous year
- One unit Head
- At-large selection to balance college representation

\*Current Chair

*Updated: December 1, 2025*

*Award program approved by the OSU Board of Regents January 31, 2003.*