Reminder: Nominate an Employee or Coworker for an Award for Excellence

Date: January 15, 2016

Take a look around you. You recognize people who are dedicated to the University of Arizona, who are always ready to help and who make the University a great place to work. Now, take a moment and nominate those people for an Award for Excellence so that the rest of the University can appreciate them also. The Classified Staff Council, the Appointed Professionals Advisory Council, and the President’s Cabinet sponsor these awards. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to nominate someone great today.

The University Award for Excellence [1] - will be presented to approximately 11 members of the Classified Staff and the Appointed Professionals, regardless of their length of service, classification or pay grade. These awards are designed to recognize outstanding achievements. Nominations are evaluated respectively within six pay levels to ensure an equal distribution of awards among employees at all levels. Nominations should include specific examples of exemplary performance in the criteria themes outlined. Nominated individuals must be benefits-eligible.

The Billy Joe Varney Award for Excellence [2] - will be presented to one employee, with at least 15 cumulative years of employment at the University, who merits special recognition for a career of dedicated service to the University, its employees and the community. Nominations should include specific examples of exemplary performance in the criteria themes outlined. Nominees can be chosen from any employment category. Individuals nominated must be benefits-eligible.

The Team Award for Excellence [3] - will be presented to a team primarily comprised of Classified Staff and Appointed Professionals and tasked with a specific project or function. Team members should have complementary skills, be committed to a common purpose, and share specific performance goals. They should also have established means by which to hold themselves mutually accountable. A team shall be defined as two or more benefits-eligible employees, regardless of their length of service. Nominations should include specific examples of exemplary performance in the criteria themes outlined. The award will be presented in recognition of the team’s outstanding contribution to its unit, department or the University as a whole.

The Department Award for Excellence [4] - will be presented to a single department in recognition of its outstanding departmental excellence in the management of its people and resources. Nominations should include specific examples of exemplary performance in the criteria themes outlined. Judges will look how much departments meet and/or exceed the selection criteria. The department selected by the judges to receive the University of Arizona Department Award for Excellence will receive a commemorative plaque.
All of these honors, with the exception of the Department Award for Excellence, carry with them a university-funded monetary award and, therefore, must be based on achievements in activities beyond normal duties. On behalf of the organizations supporting this recognition, we encourage you to nominate employees in your area who you feel are making outstanding contributions to the University. Anyone may nominate an employee.

Nominations must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on Jan. 29. Recipients will be notified in March.

Provost Andrew Comrie will host the UA Awards for Excellence ceremony on April 26, to present the awards.

Questions should be directed to the co-chairs of the UA Awards for Excellence Committee: Grace Aranda at 520-621-3931 or garanda@email.arizona.edu [5], or Claudia Arias at 520-621-8051 or ariasc@email.arizona.edu [6].

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