



2025-2026

MCPHERSON DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS

Overview

The quality of educational opportunities and experiences at Napa Valley College is directly related to the quality and commitment of the college's human resources. The faculty comprises a most critical aspect of the college's capability to deliver, with excellence, instructional programming and service to students. It is most important that public recognition of outstanding faculty performance, so vital to the prosperity of the college and the students it serves, occurs on a formal and regular basis.

The annual awards recognize and reward excellence in teaching and service to students. The awards honor faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to the education of Napa Valley College students through classroom instruction and other activities that promote student learning.

Please note: The awardee for the McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award will give a 10-15 minute "ED Talk" on a general interest topic relevant to their discipline.

Eligibility and Awarding

The McPherson Distinguished Teaching Awards are designed not only to recognize excellent teaching and service to students but also to encourage continuation of that excellence. The nominees, therefore, need not necessarily have a long record of distinguished service, but their service must have been demonstrably outstanding with respect to the evaluation *Criteria for Selection of Nominees* (hereafter referred to as Criteria), below.

Any full-time or part-time credit or noncredit teaching faculty member may be nominated. To be eligible, the nominee must have successfully taught at Napa Valley College for at least 4 years for full-time faculty, and 3 of the last 5 semesters for part-time faculty.

The purpose of the award is to encourage and promote excellence in teaching at all career stages.

Nomination and Selection Process

Any member of the NVC campus community may submit nominations. A call for nominations will be announced by the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Academic Affairs and will be distributed via e-mail and publications. **Interested individuals may submit a completed Nomination Form and Letter to the Office of Academic Affairs by the due date indicated in the announcement in person or via e-mail to [Noemi Camargo Jepsen](#), Executive Assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs.**

All eligible nominations are reviewed by a selection committee composed of the following representatives: the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and one representative each from the NVC Foundation, Board of Trustees, Student Body, and Academic Senate (chosen from previous awardees).

The selection process will give significant weight to the nomination form, letter, and any supplemental materials. It may also include collecting input from the nominee's supervisor, who will provide information

based on their knowledge of the nominee’s instructional performance and direct observation of work with students. The selection committee may also collect information through observation of the nominee, and interview with the candidate, students, supervisor, or colleagues, as well as information on committee and college service.

The selection committee forwards recommendations to the College Superintendent/President, who is responsible for making the final decision on awardee/s. The McPherson Distinguished Teaching Awards Recognition will take place near the end of the spring semester.

Criteria for Selection of Nominees

The selection committee shall choose the recipient from among the current pool of nominees whom they deem to exhibit distinguished teaching based on the following:

- The candidate demonstrates excellence in teaching through quality of instruction, effectiveness in encouraging achievement, and promotion of learning in and outside of the classroom.
- The candidate participates in college, student, and/or professional activities that help improve the educational environment.
- The candidate displays an overall enthusiasm for learning and maintains currency in his/her discipline.
- The candidate demonstrates a commitment to serving and empowering students from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- The candidate exhibits a strong understanding of the college’s mission of promoting open access and student success.

The accompanying nomination letter must address and provide clear examples as to how the faculty member exhibits the 5 criteria listed above.

Timeline for Nominations and Awarding

Call for Nominations	February 09, 2026
Nominations due	March 09, 2026
Selection committee review	By March 20, 2026
Announcement of awardee/s	By April 6, 2026
Recognition at the Board of Trustees Meeting	April 16, 2026
Recognition and presentation of award	April 30, 2026

Recognition

The recipient of the McPherson award is honored during a public recognition and presentation at the end of spring. A monetary award from the McPherson Fund of the Napa Valley College Foundation is included in the recognition. The awardee receives a \$1,500 prize and plaque.

The name of the awardee is also included on the Office of Academic Affairs website. Photographs and accomplishments of the awardee are also included in college publications.

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NOMINATION FORM

Submit your completed form and nomination letter to the Office of Academic Affairs, Room 1533, McPherson Administration Building, Napa Valley College or e-mail to noemi.camargojepsen@napavalley.edu

All nomination forms must be accompanied by a nomination letter and must address the 5 criteria for selection of nominee.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: 5:00 pm on Monday, March 9, 2026

NOMINEE INFORMATION
Name
Teaching Discipline/s
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time instructor <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time instructor <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
College Division

YOUR INFORMATION
Name
Relationship to Nominee (student, colleague, etc.)
Briefly describe the circumstances which have given you personal and direct knowledge of the nominee's distinguished teaching activities.

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NOMINATION LETTER

In a separate nomination letter approximately 1-3 pages in length, double spaced, please carefully present appropriate details and specific examples which motivate you to nominate this individual for a distinguished teaching award.

You may present additional points of strength related to instructional excellence that you consider significant, such as:

- Student letters or testimonials
- Peer testimonials
- Sample teaching documents

Student feedback is highly encouraged.

Please refer to the **Criteria for Selection of Nominees** for more details. **Also, note that all 5 criteria must be reflected in your nomination letter.**

- The candidate demonstrates excellence in teaching through quality of instruction, effectiveness in encouraging achievement, and promotion of learning in and outside of the classroom.
- The candidate participates in college, student, and/or professional activities that help improve the educational environment.
- The candidate displays an overall enthusiasm for learning and maintains currency in his/her discipline.
- The candidate demonstrates a commitment to serving and empowering students from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- The candidate exhibits a strong understanding of the college’s mission of promoting open access and student success.

SIGNATURE

Signature	Date
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For more information: Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs at (707) 256-7157.