Graduate Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship

2012 Call for Nominations
Click this link for a PDF of the Call for Nominations, eligibility requirements, and nomination form.

A mentor is not just an educator. A mentor is a person who inspires and motivates. A mentor is committed to excellence. The Dean's Excellence in Mentorship Award recognizes full-time regular UAB faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments as mentors of graduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN OUTSTANDING MENTOR

Personal Characteristics

- Demonstrates effective leadership skills
- Is enthusiastic
- Is respectful
- Is unselfish
- Is patient
- Is self confident
- Is honest
- Is flexible
- Is sensitive
- Appreciates individual differences
- Supports all trainees irrespective of their faculty affiliation

Teaching and Communication

- Is an effective communicator
- Is regarded as an excellent teacher
- Makes difficult information and concepts understandable
- Adjusts presentations to audience level
- Welcomes questions and alternative interpretations

Mentoring Characteristics

- Believes in the importance of mentoring
- Has an open door policy
- Is a careful listener
- Provides inspiration and optimism
Balances guidance and independence
Encourages creative thinking
Celebrates trainee successes
Teaches the art of critique
Treats all trainees as colleagues
Demonstrates ethical conduct of scholarly activity
Understands differences among cultural, gender, and ethnic groups
Solicits advice from other experienced mentors
Advises trainees to seek out multiple mentors
Promotes network building
Serves as a role model
Promotes personal and intellectual growth of trainees
Provides opportunities for skills development
  Hones communication skills, research presentations, and teaching
  Assists with manuscript preparation
  Directs development of grant proposals
  Coaches people skills, leadership, and teamwork
  Teaches non academic skills: administration, management, and budgeting
Serves as a career advisor
  Fosters independence
  Supports career objectives of students and postdocs
  Wants trainees to be successful
  Assists trainees with identifying and securing their next career opportunity
Stays in touch after trainees have completed their training
Derives great satisfaction from following the successful career trajectories of previous trainees

2011 Award Recipients
Michael Brooks, PhD, Human Studies
Steven Carroll, MD, PhD, Neuropathology
Nikolai Chernov, PhD, Mathematics
Noel K. Childers, DDS, Pediatric Dentistry
Loucrecia Collins, EdD, Educational Leadership
John Heith Copes, PhD, Justice Sciences
Terje Dokland, PhD, Microbiology
Robert Fischer, PhD, Biology
Roderick Fullard, OD, PhD, Vision Sciences
W. Timothy Garvey, MD, Nutrition Sciences
Barbara Gower, PhD, Nutrition Sciences
Amjad Javed, PhD, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Julie Locher, PhD, Gerontology
Lori McMahon, PhD, Physiology & Biophysics
Nir Menachemi, PhD, Health Care Organization & Policy
Linda Moneyham, PhD, Nursing
Tim R. Nagy, PhD, Nutrition Sciences
Linda Searby, PhD, Educational Leadership
Rosa Serra, PhD, Cell Biology
John Van Sant, PhD, History & Anthropology
Rosalyn Weller, PhD, Psychology
Nengjun Yi, PhD, Biostatistics

2010 Award Recipients
2009 Recipients
Graciela S. Alarcon, M.D., Epidemiology
Victor Darley-Usmar, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Pathology
Louis J. Dell'italia, M.D., Medicine
Brian F. Geiger, Ed.D., Education-Human Studies
Ian W. Knowles, Ph.D., Mathematics
Lesley E. Smythies, Ph.D., Medicine
Stephen A. Watts, Ph.D., Biology

2008 Recipients
Gypsy Abbott, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies
Susan Appel, Ph.D., Nursing--Adult/Acute Health
Susan Bellis, Ph.D., Physiology and Biophysics
Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D., Sociology
Christine Curcio, Ph.D., Ophthalmology
Retta Evans, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies
John Hablitz, Ph.D., Neurobiology
James Hagood, M.D., Pediatrics
Gary Hunter, Ph.D., Education--Human Studies
Raymond Ideker, M.D., Medicine
Robin Lorenze, M.D./Ph.D., Pathology
John Mountz, M.D., Medicine
Peter Prevelige, Ph.D., Microbiology
Robert Thacker, Ph.D., Biology
Dan Welch, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Pathology
Dale Williams, Ph.D., Preventive Medicine