

Susan Duncan Mentoring Award

Description

The Susan Duncan Mentoring Award is presented annually to a Graduate Teaching Scholars student who has demonstrated **outstanding peer/student mentoring**, broadly defined as exemplary and effective mentoring of undergraduate and/or new or junior graduate students that significantly contributes to the student's personal growth, professional development and/or academic success. This award aims to recognize graduate student excellence in such facets of student life and work that benefit other students and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences program. Examples would include outstanding mentoring of a younger cohort by an experienced graduate student, extraordinary research assistance given by one student to others, work done by a graduate student to improve the CALS graduate student body, or fostering diversity and access for all students. This award is meant to complement rather than duplicate areas of achievement already recognized through department, college, and university awards.

The selection committee welcomes nominations from faculty, peers, and self-nominations. Peer nominations can be from individuals in the GTS program or others who work with the nominee.

Eligibility: All Graduate Teaching Scholars are eligible for nomination. Students can only receive the award once.

Nomination packets will include the following:

- Cover letter to include the nominee's name, department, year in the Graduate Teaching Scholars program, and the name(s) of the nominator(s).
- Two Letters of support that speak to the nominee's impact through mentorship. A team of individuals or a single author may submit letters. In self-nominations, one letter must be from a peer.
- The nominee's description of their mentoring philosophy - 1pg
 - The description should include why you mentor and how you support the inclusion and equity of others in your graduate program activities.
- Nominee's Curriculum Vita
- Packets will be submitted as one PDF file.

In the case of a tie, the two finalists will each submit a two-minute video that "Speaks to your impact through mentorship of undergraduates and/or graduate students."

Application process and selection

Applications are due by April 1st and must be submitted to Dr. Donna Westfall-Rudd via email, mooredm@vt.edu, with the subject line "GTS Duncan Award Application."

The selection committee will include three judges. At least one will be a GTS alumnus who completed the program four or more years before the annual submission deadline. At least one will be a CALS faculty member who does not have a student in the program. The faculty member could also be a Department Head.

The award will be announced at the Annual GTS Spring Celebration.