



Office of the Provost

Distinguished University Research Projects Award

Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Award Description

Competitive project funding for significant research and creative activities.

Maximum Award Amount: \$25,000 total funding, available up to three years

Eligibility Criteria

All tenure-track faculty excluding Distinguished University Professors. Committee members may not apply for awards during their service term.

Application Process and Portfolio

Candidates for consideration may be identified through nomination by a second party (e.g., faculty or student) or by direct application of the individual. All candidates will be asked to submit an electronic professional packet through Interfolio that includes the following:

1. Updated CV
2. Project proposal including project aims, methodology, project timeline, an itemized budget with justifications, expected outcomes and deliverables (the rubric below should be referenced)
3. Department chair or Dean's support letter to strengthen the application if requesting course release time from the department

Selection Criteria

- Project Significance and Innovation
- Methodological Rigor & Feasibility

- Applicant Qualifications
- Expected Impact & Outcomes
- Budget Justification

Post-Award Requirements

- Annual updates on progress made toward stated goals.
- Comprehensive outcomes report due at the end of Year 3.
- Acknowledgment of UWF support in publications/productions.

Award Timeline

All faculty are welcome to nominate colleagues or themselves for an award.

Nominations **must** be submitted using the 2026 Faculty Award Nomination form.

- Nominations for a colleague must be received no later than **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**. Eligible faculty will be notified and can then choose whether or not to apply.
- Self-nominations can be submitted after **September 2, 2026** but must be received in order to confirm eligibility.
- Application materials will be submitted using [Interfolio](#). Faculty will receive a notification when their application packet is created and available to them.
- Application packets must be submitted no later than **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**.

Award announcements will be made at the 2026 Faculty Awards Celebration to be held on **Thursday, November 19, 2026**.

Distinguished University Research Projects Rubric

Criterion	Weighting	Evaluation Standards	Evidence Required
Project Significance & Innovation	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addresses important research question or creative challenge. - Advances knowledge/practice in the field. - Novel approach or methodology. - Potential for scholarly/creative impact. - Alignment with disciplinary priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear articulation of research question/creative aims. - Literature review demonstrating the gap. - Innovation statement. - Expected contribution to the field.
Methodological Rigor & Feasibility	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound research design or creative methodology. - Appropriate methods for research questions. - Realistic timeline and milestones. - Achievable within a 3-year timeframe. - Risk mitigation strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed methodology section. - Project timeline with milestones. - Pilot data (if applicable). - Resource availability confirmation
Applicant Qualifications	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrated expertise in the proposed area. - Track record of research/creative productivity. - Capacity to complete the proposed project. - Access to necessary resources/facilities. - Student involvement/mentoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV highlighting relevant experience. - Prior publications/productions in the area. - Institutional support documentation.
Expected Impact & Outcomes	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear, measurable outcomes defined. - Potential for publications/exhibitions/performances - Foundation for external grant applications. - Contribution to institutional visibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific deliverables identified. - Dissemination plan. - Future funding strategy. - Broader impacts statement.
Budget Justification	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable costs for proposed activities. - Clear alignment between budget and aims. - Efficient use of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Itemized budget with justifications. - Personnel/travel/equipment breakdown.

Scoring: Each criterion rated on a 3-point scale (1=Does Not Meet, 2= Meets, 3=Exceeds expectations). The weighted total score determines the recommendation.

Rank-Appropriate Adjustments:

- **Assistant Professors:** Emphasis on developmental potential and external grant foundation.
- **Associate Professors:** Emphasis on trajectory toward national recognition and promotion readiness.
- **Full Professors:** Emphasis on significant scholarly/creative impact and institutional reputation enhancement.