2026 Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards
Nomination Guidelines

The Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards were created to recognize outstanding undergraduate teaching at Universities of Wisconsin institutions within the Alliant service area.

NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR UW-MADISON NOMINEES: Monday, December 8, 2025
A complete set of nomination materials should be submitted through the application website located at https://apps.ohr.wisc.edu/staffdev/ by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025**. Please refer all questions to Lesley Fisher at pdrc@soas.wisc.edu.

SELECTION COMMITTEE
The UW-Madison Professional Development and Recognition Committee will select one instructional academic staff winner from UW-Madison.

ELIGIBILITY
To be eligible for this award the nominee should:

- Display an uncommon commitment to teaching (e.g., works to maintain a strong and current knowledge of the field; seeks out and develops innovative approaches to teaching, including effective uses of technology to enhance teaching; shares insights on teaching through presentations and publications; serves as a mentor or special advisor to students; and sponsors student-initiated projects).
- Employ especially effective teaching strategies (e.g., communicates high expectations; establishes good intellectual rapport with students; engages students in and out of the classroom in an active examination of the topic; conveys excitement about the material; fosters conceptual and critical thinking; models and encourages an integrated view of knowledge; and respects and responds to the diversity among students).
- Have enabled particularly notable achievements by former students.

NOMINATION MATERIALS

- **Reflective statement** by the nominee on their teaching and learning philosophy, strategies, objectives, and on how these have evolved over time (2-page limit).
- A condensed **curriculum vitae** of the nominee (3-page limit).
- **One or two letters of support from current or past students** (2-page limit each). At least one letter should be from a student with recent or current contact with the nominee.
- **One or two letters of support from colleagues** qualified to comment on the candidate's teaching (2-page limit each). One letter should be from the department chair.
- **Evidence of the success of the candidate's teaching** (no more than 3 pages), which may include a summary of student evaluations for each course taught over the past two years, a list of awards for teaching, invitations to speak at teaching improvement meetings, and other relevant material.

Please note, nomination materials are subject to release under Wisconsin Open Records laws and should be written with the possibility of those materials being made publicly available.

AWARD
The recipient will receive a monetary award and public recognition at a special ceremony, at which an official Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching award will be presented.