

TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs, and Faculty
FROM: Michael McPherson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
DATE: May 5, 2025
RE: Nominations for Ulys & Vera Knight Mentor Awards

The Ulys & Vera Knight Mentor Awards annually recognize faculty members who demonstrate sustained excellence in mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or other faculty. Mentoring may include support and guidance in the areas of teaching, research, service, academic achievement and/or professional development. Faculty members who have initiated departmental or university-wide mentoring programs or created student and/or faculty development programs are eligible for this recognition.

To also be eligible for this award, *a faculty member must have served the University for a minimum of three (3) years, be a full-time professional faculty or tenure-track/tenured faculty member in good standing at the time of the nomination, and must demonstrate continued commitment to faculty-to-faculty and/or faculty-to- student mentoring.*

In 2026, two awards will be given, each with an engraved commemorative gift and a one-time payment of \$1,500:

- **The Ulys & Vera Knight Faculty Mentor Award**, recognizing excellence in mentoring other UNT faculty members; and
- **The Ulys & Vera Knight Student Mentor Award**, recognizing excellence in mentoring UNT students.

Nomination applications should indicate if the nominee should be considered for the Faculty Mentor Award, the Student Mentor Award, or both. The strongest applications will include accomplishments, examples, and letters that specifically relate to the award(s) for which the nominee wishes to be considered.

Nominations for the Ulys & Vera Knight Mentor awards shall be made by any UNT faculty or university employee with in-depth knowledge of the accomplishments of the nominee. Nominators should inform nominees that they are being nominated and may solicit their assistance in preparing the nomination materials. Self-nominations will also be accepted. The nomination dossier must include the following documents, uploaded separately to the award portal:

1. Two-page personal narrative describing the nominee's mentoring philosophy and addressing the following questions:
 - a. What ideas guide you as a mentor?
 - b. What practices do you use to mentor others? Please give examples.
 - c. How has your mentorship impacted others' academic, professional, and personal

success?

2. A listing of accomplishments, outcomes, and impacts resulting from mentoring initiatives. If relevant to nomination, a listing of mentored students, mentored faculty, publications, presentations, and other outcomes resulting from the mentoring relationship.
3. Three supporting letters addressing the quality and impact of the nominee's mentoring contribution. These letters can include information and examples about advising and mentoring students, expanding faculty/student opportunities, serving as a mentor in the UNT Faculty Mentoring Program, developing and running workshops, helping; faculty/students in their professional development, and contributing to the quality of the overall student experience. Supporting letters may be requested from mentored students or faculty, colleagues, deans, department chairs, PAC committees, and/or other university colleagues. If possible, at least one letter should be from a current or former mentee.
4. Complete curriculum vita.

An award selection committee, appointed by the Vice Provost for Faculty Success, will represent the faculty at large and the Faculty Senate. The Vice Provost's representative will serve as the non-voting chair of the committee. The 2026 Ulys & Vera Knight Mentor Awards will be presented at the Salute to Faculty Excellence ceremony in the spring.

Nominators should submit their completed nominations through the [Faculty Success InfoReady Portal](#) by **5:00 pm on October 9, 2025**. Please submit to the award titled "**Ulys & Vera Knight Mentor Award**." If you have any questions, please contact Faculty Success at faculty.success@unt.edu.