

Purpose:

The Vargo Award recognizes full-time tenured faculty who have served as a faculty member at California University for at least 10 years and have demonstrated outstanding achievement across at least two of the three areas of teaching and learning, scholarly growth, and service and service learning and significant achievement in at least one other of these three areas.

Background:

Robert Vargo was an outstanding faculty member at California University. During his tenure at Cal U, he was an exemplary faculty member. His teaching abilities were exceptional and he was an outstanding researcher. In all cases throughout his career, Dr. Vargo involved students. In this way he passed on his love of earth science to a new generation of scientists and teachers. Rarely, does a faculty member achieve so much across several fields of endeavor. However, that is the type of faculty member who this award seeks to recognize.

Procedure:

Please submit four endorsements, one which must be from the candidate's dean, plus the letter of nomination and a letter of recommendation from the candidate's dean. Also provide a curriculum vitae and any other supplemental materials. The total nomination submission should be no more than one ¾-inch binder (with additional supporting evidence available upon request).

Evaluation Criteria:

Part I. Effective Teaching and Learning

1. Contributing outside of the classroom to student growth and development in your discipline (e.g. taking students to professional meetings, performances, exhibits, field trips, clinical settings; advising preprofessional clubs; and providing training opportunities.)
2. Teaching awards and/or recognition for teaching.
3. Evidence of the impact of your teaching on students (e.g., student evaluations, cards and letters from students or their parents, graduate placement rate for your majors, students presenting at conferences.)
4. Testimony of peers.
5. Scholarship of teaching/learning (e.g. new approaches to teaching, developing or applying new pedagogy, incorporating new technology into classes.)
6. Include a written philosophy of teaching.
7. Evidence of significant integration, or cutting edge use, or development of new technology in one's teaching.

Part II. Scholarly Growth

1. Publications - number and quality as measured by reviews, citations, adoptions, outside referee's evaluation and stature of publisher.
2. Research awards and/or recognition for research and/or evidence of significant external grantsmanship.
3. Evidence of recognition in the field of expertise:
 - a. Testimony of experts in the discipline or related disciplines(s) (e.g., awards, letters of recommendation, etc.). Invited papers delivered; (e.g. lectures, juried shows and grants), Quantity and quality as measured by reviews, citations, adoptions, outside referee's evaluation and stature of publisher.
 - b. OR musicals or theatrical performances, one person or invitational shows - number and professional importance,
 - c. OR consultantships.
 - d. OR participation in planning/organization of workshops, institutes, or short courses related to the discipline and professionally recognized (including programs related to the scholarly growth of one's peers).
4. Participation in professional organizations through office holding and editorships.
5. Evidence of the impact of research on student learning (e.g., involving students in original research activities or training opportunities).
6. Development of original research in your discipline as a result of systematic investigation.
7. Evidence of significant integration, or cutting edge use, or development of new technology in scholarly activities.

Part III. Service and Service-Learning

1. Service and service-learning awards and/or recognition.
2. Participation in community work in a professional capacity.
 - a. Enhanced community knowledge and information.
 - b. Assisted local governments, community groups, or cultural endeavors through interactive planning and growth of knowledge, concepts, skills, and/or affective relationships
 - c. Provided a program identified by the University or local community groups as useful to the stability of the community at large.
 - d. Supported on-going community project(s) that have a long term need for nominee's growth and development expertise.
 - e. Supported national endeavor(s) that may be procured and applied to local problems and needs
 - f. Significant contributions to student organizations or activities
3. Testimony of experts in the discipline or related discipline(s) (e.g., awards, letters of recommendation, etc.)
4. Quantity and quality of student/teaching/learning based service learning experiences.
5. Impacts of service learning experiences on students/student outcomes.
6. Scholarship associated with service learning.
7. Evidence of significant integration, or cutting edge use, or development of new technology in service and service-learning

Process:

1. Nominators must complete a nomination form and submit it, with the nominee's current vitae, to the Faculty Center by the deadline date.
2. Processing Steps:
 - a. Using the cover sheet provided, the nominator should prepare and submit a nomination.
 - b. The nomination should be in essay format explaining why the faculty member should receive the award. The nominations should be limited to three double-spaced pages.
 - c. The nominator should secure the signature of the nominee as evidence that the nominee is willing to be nominated.
3. Nominees will be interviewed by the evaluating committee. Nominees should be prepared to discuss their activities in at least two of the three areas of teaching and learning, scholarly growth, or service and service learning

Honors and Award:

While this achievement may not be given every year, when given it carries the following accolades: The recipient receives a graduate assistant for one year and fully funded travel to one domestic professional setting, or, the recipient may request other professionally appropriate uses for funding (up to a \$10,000 maximum limit) contingent upon approval by the FPD Committee. The recipient will also be honored at the Merit Award/FPDC Recognition Event with a certificate and honors cords to wear at the Commencement Ceremony where they will be honored for this achievement.

Funding Procedure:

The Vargo Award funds must be used within one year of the date of the award. To obtain the funds, the awardee must send an e-mail message to fpdc@calu.edu with specific details of the expenditure that is being requested. Include in the e-mail message:

1. the name and term of the award that will fund the expenditure;
2. a complete description of the item (i.e., cost, vendor information, justification for the expenditure, etc.);
3. the ten-digit SAP funds center number for the faculty member's department. Funds will be transferred to the faculty member's department funds center upon receipt of the documentation verifying the expenditure (i.e., receipts, paid invoices, etc.).

Deadline:

All nominations must be received at the Faculty Center on or before noon on November 1. Dossiers must be received at the Faculty Center on or before noon on February 1. If these deadlines fall on a weekend or holiday, they will be extended to the next business day.