



Northern Illinois  
University

## **Presidential Engagement Professorship**

### **Call for Nominations and Applications**

NIU faculty, staff, and community members are invited to nominate NIU professors with outstanding records of community engagement for the 2012 Presidential Engagement Professorships. Nominations are due to Vice President Anne Kaplan by September 23, 2011. Applications will be accepted through November 4, 2011.

The University's mission incorporates the institution's responsibility to contribute to the betterment of society, to promote the application of knowledge and the interaction of faculty and practicing professionals, and to prepare students for effective and responsible citizenship. The Presidential Engagement Professorships have been established to recognize those faculty members who exemplify the following criteria:

- Commitment to fostering reciprocal partnerships in which problems, solutions, goals, and measures of success are defined jointly
- Recognition for the ability to engage external communities in conscious efforts to bring scholarship to bear on regional, national, or international problems
- Enhancement of curricular content by incorporating opportunities to create, integrate, transfer, and apply knowledge for the benefit of all partners
- Engagement of students in projects and initiatives of direct benefit to external audiences
- Creating a sense of civic responsibility in students
- Enabling of learning beyond the confines of the campus

**Special emphasis will be placed on the recognition of faculty whose efforts have resulted in significant outcomes and who have involved students in projects of direct benefit to external audiences.** This award will not only recognize and honor past excellence in outreach and engagement, but will provide significant tangible support for current and future efforts.

#### **Definition of Engagement**

According to the Carnegie Foundation, "community engagement describes the collaboration between an institution of higher education and its larger communities (local, regional, national, and global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity."

#### **Nature of the Award**

Each Presidential Engagement Professor will receive the following upon appointment:

- An increment of \$2,000 to base salary.

- A grant of \$5,000 during each year of the four-year award period following the non-renewable appointment. The grant is to be used for any legitimate activities directly related to the improvement of the professor's engagement initiatives (e.g., equipment, graduate assistants, supplies, travel, secretarial help) except for personal salary.
- Release for one semester (or the equivalent in part-time releases) from teaching, research, and service responsibilities during the last half of the four-year award period to permit the generation of new course materials, grant applications, or scholarly works; the development of new partnerships; and/or the engagement of new audiences.

These provisions are to be over and above any tangible resources or released time that these individuals may obtain through grants, contracts, or other sources during the award period.

Presidential Engagement Professors will be formally appointed in the spring of the year prior to the starting date of their appointments. At this time, each professor will be presented with a medallion intended for wearing with academic regalia.

### **Eligibility and Selection**

To be considered, individuals must hold tenure and the rank of professor and have served at least six years at NIU. Nominees should be acknowledged for their commitment to sharing and reciprocity with community partners and their demonstrated continuous excellence in service of direct benefit to the public with collateral benefits to the university. Individuals who have received the Presidential Research Professor Award or the Presidential Teaching Professor Award may also be eligible for appointment as a Presidential Engagement Professor; however, the four-year award periods may not overlap. Professors nearing retirement from the university are eligible. If appointed, these individuals will receive the benefits and support associated with the award for that part of the appointment period during which they are fully employed at NIU. Sitting members of the Selection Committee are not eligible for the appointment.

### **Nominations**

Nominations may be made in writing by any individual, including the nominee, who is a current or former member of the university community (alumni, faculty, staff, students, administrators, or community partners). External scholars and practitioners knowledgeable about the nominee's qualifications may also nominate. Nominations must be submitted to Anne Kaplan, Vice President for Outreach, Engagement, and Information Technologies, who will forward them to the Selection Committee.

*Nomination letters are due by Friday, September 23, 2011 to [akaplan@niu.edu](mailto:akaplan@niu.edu).*

### **Application Material**

Interested nominees will prepare an electronic portfolio that includes the following:

1. A current resume which includes a record of external funding and public recognition related to engagement

2. A brief essay (maximum of 1,000 words) expressing the nominee's philosophy on outreach and engagement from both scholarly and pedagogical perspectives. For instance, what is the role of engagement in the nominee's discipline or in his or her research interests? In relation to pedagogy, how do engaged learning activities with external partners assist students' learning of course content? How have students' experiences impacted course curriculums?
3. Tangible evidence of outcomes related to engagement and outreach; e.g., changes in practice and policy, successful advocacy
4. A list of three references, including a minimum of two (2) from community partners who can speak to the different aspects of the nominee's work in engagement and outreach
5. The names of three students or alumni who can speak to their participation in engagement activities under the direction of the nominee and the influence of those activities on their current thinking

*Electronic application portfolios are due by Friday, November 4, 2011, to Anne Kaplan at [akaplan@niu.edu](mailto:akaplan@niu.edu).*

### **Obligations of Presidential Engagement Professors**

Presidential Engagement Professors are expected to carry out a continuous program of activities related to applied research and scholarship, teaching, and outreach and engagement during the four-year award period. At the conclusion of the award period, each Presidential Engagement Professor will be asked to conduct a seminar on outreach and engagement for the campus community on a topic of choice derived from their work and developmental activities. To ensure the smooth functioning of their respective departments, each professor will consult with the department chair, the college dean, and the provost, as necessary, about scheduling the released time related to the award.

### **Distinguished Engagement Professors**

When the Presidential Engagement Professor completes the four-year award period, his or her title will become Distinguished Engagement Professor.

### **The Selection Committee**

The selection committee is composed of members of the Outreach Advisory Committee, a dean chosen by the Council of Deans, a student appointed by the Student Association, and prior recipients of the Presidential Engagement Professorships during their award periods. The Selection Committee will be chaired by the Vice President or a designee.

For more information, call NIU Outreach at (815) 753-1272.

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