MOLLOY UNIVERSITY
Faculty Professional Center

To: Katherine Kim and Robert Stewart

From: Maureen M. Sanz, PhD
Director, FPC

Date: November 4, 2026

Regarding: Faculty Awards Selection Process

Each year, Molloy University recognizes faculty for their accomplishments in the domains of leadership, research, scholarship, and teaching, highlighting the university's commitment to excellence. Seven awards distinguish the work of faculty, and one program award distinguishes the collaborative work of faculty on the academic assessment process. Attached to this memo is a list of faculty awards and the award selection process for each.

Faculty were encouraged to recognize their colleagues' outstanding achievements by submitting a nomination using one of the links below, available at https://www.molloy.edu/academics/resources/resources-for-faculty/faculty-professional-center/faculty_awards

Faculty Awards

- **Emerging Scholar Award**
- **Excellence in Teaching Award**
- **Innovative Online Course Design Award**
- **Leadership Award**
- **Lighthearted Lion Award**
- **Maroon Monocle Award**
- **Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award**

Program Award

- The recipient of the **Academic Assessment Program Rockstar Award** will also be recognized.

Nominations are due by Thursday, December 10, 2026.
Award recipients will be recognized at the:
Provost with the Faculty Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2027, 3:30 PM in the Hays Theatre.

Calendar:		
November	4, 2026	Invitation sent to submit nominations
December	10, 2026	Nomination Deadline
February	1, 2027	Semifinalists determined and advised
February	19, 2027	Deadline for letters of support and candidate CV
March	12, 2027	Award decision made, and recipient notified

MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

Faculty Awards 2027

Academic Assessment Program Rockstar Award *1 per academic year*
The Academic Assessment Program Rockstar Award is given for recognition of an outstanding program or course-level assessment achievements that contribute to significant continual improvement and substantial faculty engagement in the academic assessment process.

Emerging Scholar Award *Up to 2 per academic year*
The Emerging Scholar Award recognizes the emerging scholarly achievements of full-time faculty who have a developing record of research, scholarship, or creative activity. Evidence includes publications, grant proposals, copyrighted documents, the development of innovative technology or practice, performances, exhibits, and/or other scholarly activities in any academic field of study.

Excellence in Teaching Award *1 per academic year*
The Teaching Excellence Award recognizes an educator who exemplifies best practices in pedagogy by utilizing innovative instructional strategies, research, and reflective practice that apply to meeting the needs of diverse learners. This teacher facilitates student engagement, creates an atmosphere of collaboration, and sets a standard of excellence.

Innovative Online Course Design Award *Up to 2 per academic year*
The Innovative Online Course Design Award recognizes the exceptional online course design of a full-time and a part-time faculty member, as evidenced by a commitment to quality course design that exemplifies effective teaching strategies, continued excellence in online teaching, positive impact on student learning, and innovative approaches to teaching.

Leadership Award *1 per academic year*
The Leadership Award is an award of great distinction that recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the institution (e.g., task force service, elected governance committees, new initiatives, service to the faculty, service to students) and who exemplifies a commitment to the Molloy University Mission in a spirit of collaboration. This individual is likely to have had an impact on Molloy University, as well as in the broader community.

Lighthearted Lion Award *1 per academic year*
The Lighthearted Lion Award is presented in recognition of an individual's insight, wisdom, and skill in handling diverse teaching and student responsibilities with grace and fortitude. This individual serves Molloy University students tirelessly, with a collaborative nature and a vision for the future.

Maroon Monocle Award *1 per academic year*
The Maroon Monocle Award is presented in recognition of an individual's ability to align their philosophy of teaching with research practices in a creative, yet meaningful manner. The ability to creatively align teaching and research practice suggests superior teaching skill that is informed by a faculty member’s research.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award *1 per academic year*
The Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award recognizes the exceptional scholarly achievements of full-time faculty, as evidenced by publications, grant proposals, copyrighted documents, the development of innovative technology or practice, performances, exhibits, and/or other scholarly activities in any academic field of study.

Academic Assessment Program Rockstar Award

Eligibility:

- All academic programs.
- Academic programs with substantial faculty engagement that have demonstrated a commitment to academic assessment and the use of assessment data for continual improvement.

Selection Process:

- The Dean of Student Success and Assessment will determine the recipients of this award.

Selection Criteria:

- Commitment to academic assessment at Molloy University
- Evidence of use of assessment data to inform departmental decisions and continual improvement of curriculum.
- Substantial engagement of all full-time faculty in the academic assessment process.
- Support of the nominated department's school dean.

Emerging Scholar Award (EMS)

Eligibility:

- Full-time faculty.
- Faculty who have devoted energy toward their research, scholarship, and/or creative endeavors.

Selection Process:

- The Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the Director of the Faculty Professional Center, and a former EMS award recipient or RSCA recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in academic leadership positions) and their CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and identify the award recipient, who will be notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

- Strong commitment to scholarly work as evidenced by their productivity in their discipline.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies.
- A commitment to advancing the academic excellence of the institution.
- Recognition of their work from external constituencies (e.g., professional organizations, research institutes, peer-reviewed panels, editorial boards, etc.)

Excellence in Teaching Award (ETA)

Eligibility:

- Full-time, tenured faculty member.
- Faculty who have worked to implement innovative initiatives or have a sustained history of impactful accomplishments.

Selection Process:

- The Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the Director of the FPC, an ETA award recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty,

deans, or administrators in leadership positions) and a CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and identify the award recipient, who will be notified by the provost.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Strong commitment to the Molloy University Mission as demonstrated by their actions.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies.
- A commitment to advancing the academic excellence of the institution.
- Leadership skills that facilitate institutional change.

Innovative Online Course Design Award (IOCDA)

Eligibility:

- Full-time and part-time faculty member.
- Completion of Minimum Online Requirements and Expectations (MORE) and Teach, Learn Course Design Online (TLC) or an earned waiver.
- Have taught one or more online courses at Molloy University within the past year.

Selection Process:

- A Review Committee comprised of the Director of Blended and Online Learning, the Director of the FPC, the Director of Technology Learning Services, the Instructional Designers, a recipient of the IOCDA, and the AVP of HR will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and be required to submit the names of two persons to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in leadership positions), submit their CV, and provide access to the members of the Review Committee to an online Canvas course.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria while given access to the online course, and identify the award recipient, who will be notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Quality Online Learning Environment: The nominee has created well-designed course materials and utilized appropriate instructional strategies. These criteria may be exemplified by referencing the Quality Matters standards.
- Innovative Delivery: The nominee has demonstrated skillful application of leading-edge approaches, tools, and technologies.
- Impact on Students: The nominee has demonstrated rapport with learners and other course participants through regular, substantive interaction.
- Effective Learning Outcomes: The nominee has demonstrated effectiveness in achieving desired learning outcomes in the online course.
- Professional Development: The nominee has participated in professional development related to quality online teaching and design.

Faculty Leadership Award (FLA)

Eligibility:

- Full-time, tenured faculty member.
- Faculty who have worked to implement innovative initiatives or have a sustained history of impactful accomplishments.

Selection Process:

- A Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the

Director of the FPC, the FLA prior award recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.

- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and will be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in leadership positions) and a CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and evaluating the strength of the evidence. An award recipient will be identified and will be notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Strong commitment to the Molloy University Mission as demonstrated by their leadership activity.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies.
- A commitment to advancing the academic excellence of the institution.
- Leadership skills that facilitate institutional change.

<u>Lighthearted Lion Award (LLA)</u>

Eligibility:

- Full-time faculty member.
- Faculty who have worked with students in the classroom and for advisement.

Selection Process:

- The Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the Director of the FPC, an LLA award recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in leadership positions) and a CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and identify the award recipient, who will be notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Strong commitment to the Molloy University Mission as demonstrated by their actions and service to students.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies.
- A demonstrated ability to address difficult student situations with sensitivity, professionalism, and creativity.

<u>Maroon Monocle Award (MMA)</u>

Eligibility:

- Full-time faculty member.
- Individuals who have worked to implement innovative teaching initiatives that incorporate research activity into the academic experience.

Selection Process:

- The Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the Director of the FPC, an MMA award recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the

FPC and be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in leadership positions) and a CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and identify the award recipient, who will be notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Strong commitment to the Molloy University Mission as demonstrated by their actions and service to students.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies.
- A demonstrated ability to address difficult student situations with sensitivity, professionalism, and creativity

<u>Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award (RSCA)</u>

Eligibility:

- Full-time faculty member.
- Faculty who have initiated research programs, grants, or have a sustained history of impactful accomplishments.

Selection Process:

- A Review Committee, comprised of the Senior Dean of Research, Scholarship and Graduate Studies, the Director of the FPC, an RSCA prior award recipient, AVP of HR, and the Co-chairs of the FPC Sub-Committee, will consider the nominees and determine a list of semifinalists.
- Upon determination that a nominee moves to the semifinalist category, the candidate will be notified by the FPC and be required to submit the names of two people to support their nomination (acceptable from faculty, deans, or administrators in leadership positions) and a CV.
- The Review Committee will assess each semifinalist using the designated criteria and evaluating the strength of the evidence. An award recipient will be identified and notified by the provost.
- If none of the nominees are deemed appropriate recipients, the recognition will not be awarded for this academic year.

Selection Criteria:

(Candidate must provide sufficient evidence demonstrating that they meet a minimum of two selection criteria)

- Strong commitment to the Molloy University Mission as demonstrated by their research, scholarship, or creative activity.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with multiple campus constituencies in their research or in seeking external funding/grants.
- A commitment to advancing the academic excellence of Molloy University through impactful accomplishments.