

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award

Nomination Deadline: **Friday, May 2, 2025, at 5pm.**

Submit nominations here: [2025 Research Award Nomination](#)

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award honors a faculty member whose scholarly contributions and associated outreach efforts have measurably and significantly improved the lives of people through engagement with industry or other elements of the private sector. This award may recognize contributions by faculty from any discipline and at any stage of a research, clinical, or tenure-track appointment. The award recipient will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and a commemorative plaque.

Consistent with the highest goals MSU's land-grant institution, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award recognizes MSU faculty who, have made notable contributions in their field of research and scholarship through entrepreneurial endeavors and/or private sector engagements, including industry, philanthropic, advocacy, and other organizations. The award demonstrates MSU's commitment to fostering a research culture that creates positive economic and societal impacts through innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce, and community development.

Award Criteria

To be eligible for the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award, candidates, at the time of nomination, must be a general faculty member of any rank (including those who may not be tenure-track) with a minimum of three years at Mississippi State University. Nominees must not have been found guilty or have any pending administrative, disciplinary, or criminal charge against them.

The recipient of this award is selected based on the following review criteria:

1. Recognized as an outstanding innovator within their academic discipline.
2. Demonstrated leadership in entrepreneurial or research-focused efforts that yields measurable societal impact via interaction with industry or other elements of the private sector.
3. Spearheaded collaborative research or scholarly efforts with private organizations that have led to an economic or societal impact of innovations during their time at MSU.
4. Sustained, high impact contributions to MSU's land-grant mission through innovation, entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement.

For common innovation and entrepreneurship metrics and examples, see the [ORED Honors Page](#).

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be formed by the Vice President for Research and Economic Development to include a diverse group of full professors representing MSU's various research disciplines. Committee members will include representatives from the offices of the Provost, Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, and Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Committee members will also include at least one Associate Dean for Research, previous Ralph E. Powe award winner, and W. L. Giles Distinguished Professor.

Nomination Material:

- Nomination Form (Qualtrics online form)
- Letter of nomination providing highlights of entrepreneurial accomplishments*
- A minimum of two additional letters of support or recommendation for the nominee. It is recommended that one letter be from outside MSU*
- Abbreviated CV highlighting pertinent information (10-page limit). CVs are encouraged to include a summary section.

***Note: Letters of support/recommendation are heavily weighted** in the selection process and should communicate the nominee's scholarly contributions to a broad audience, based on the review criteria. The selection committee relies on these letters to gauge impact and significance beyond traditional metrics.

Note: This award will not be conferred on any individual whose conduct has been determined to be unethical by MSU offices/review processes, such as: Research Misconduct, Regulatory Non-Compliance, Human Resources Management, Internal Audit, or Civil Rights and Compliance