# Excellence in Teaching Award Committee Annual Report 2019-2020

Maria Lourdes Casas, (Modern Language, (Full-time recipient of the 2017 award) and Cameron Brewer, Philosophy, served as Co-Chairs of the committee. With the help of the following committee members, they reviewed and selected candidates and award winners: Mitchell Charkiewicz, Economics, (Part-time recipient of the 2017 award); Robert Kagan, Communication, (Part-time recipient of the 2018-19 award); Youngseon Kim, Marketing; and Maria Mongillo, Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology. Nghi Thai, Psychological Science, (the Full-time recipient of the 2018-19 award) was on sabbatical (which is why she was not a Co-Chair). While she was not a member of the committee due her sabbatical, the Co-chairs would like to stress that she was extremely helpful after her sabbatical ended.

The EIT committee began the process by meeting and planning the year's events that included meetings throughout both fall and spring semesters. In the fall of 2019, a call for nominations was sent to the entire CCSU community. With the assistance of Janice Palmer (Marketing & Communications) students were provided a link to a SelectSurvey nomination form via email, the student news feed on pipeline, and on various television screens across campus. We received a large number of nominations – 140 full-time and part-time faculty. SelectSurvey allowed the committee to conveniently download student nomination responses into an Excel workbook. However, once in the workbook, every name still needed to be verified and organized to ensure that every nominee was recognized and could be notified.

Every nominee was then notified and asked to create a single pdf document that included the following materials: 1. A completed 2019-2020 EIT Cover Sheet (which was included in the email congratulating them on their nomination); 2. A full curriculum vitae; 3. A statement of teaching philosophy; and 4. Copies of student evaluations from the past two semesters. If nominees were only interested in Honor Roll status, they were exempt from requirement 4. In previous years, the committee asked for recommendation letters from students rather than copies of student evaluations. However, the committee felt that students shouldn't be asked for a letter by a professor for three main reasons: First, students may feel compelled to provide a recommendation given that a professor may have some control over a student's grade (assuming they are teaching the student currently) or future opportunities (e.g., providing letters for recommendation or internship opportunities). Second, those who served on the committee in previous years felt that the student letters were not very helpful in the decision process. This was mainly because all of the letters the committee received were quite positive and did not do very much to differentiate candidates. Finally, the letter process could harm a candidate through no fault of their own. Some students never turned in the letters. So if the letters were used as a decision criterion, a professor could be excluded simply because students chose not to write letters they said they would. Since the letters did not really help to differentiate candidates, were beyond the candidate's control, and could put a student in an awkward position, we chose to change the process.

Portfolios submitted by nominees included 66 full-time and 10 part-time faculty. The transfer of these documents to Blackboard was arduous and time consuming, however by asking nominees to place their documents in a single pdf file the process was more manageable. The EIT

committee then reviewed these 76 portfolios to select 13 semi-finalists. 10 full-time faculty and 3 part-time faculty were invited for interviews, a process that took an entire day in the beginning of the spring semester. We narrowed down the pool to three full-time finalists and two part-time finalists. Remaining faculty, who had submitted all the materials required of a nominee, were advanced to the Honor Roll.

The final part of the selection process was the visitation of the finalists' classes. Each committee member scheduled classroom visits for each of the five finalists, but the campus was shut down due to COVID-19 before every member could visit the classes. Fortunately, before the campus was shut down, four of the six committee members were able to visit every class and were able to come to a unanimous consensus on the winners. We selected Jan Mason (Theatre) as the 2019-20 winner of the Part-time Award, and Frederic Latour (Math) as the 2019-20 winner of the Full-time Award. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold the ceremony on faculty day in the spring. Thus, after consulting with Dr. Christina Robinson, the award ceremony was moved to the fall (we planned to have the ceremony on September 25) in hopes that the celebration could still take place in person. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet in person due to social distancing guidelines. Thus, with the help of Laura Whittemore, Adonica Robertson, Nicholas Streifel, Ryan Wark, President Toro, and Provost Dauwalder, we celebrated the award winners, semi-finalists, and honor roll recipients via an online ceremony on Friday, November 6th 2020.

The Chairs would like to note that all members of the committee worked diligently to make the process fair and comfortable for all nominees. The was particularly daunting due to the pandemic. The committee met repeatedly in the fall of 2019, and in the spring and fall of 2020 to complete our task. The process of working on selecting recipients for this award was a gratifying experience for the committee members. However, the amount of time and effort spent on the gathering, filing and responding tasks lead us to again, ask for additional administrative support.

Submitted by,

Lourdes Casas (Modern Language), Co-Chair
Cameron Brewer (Philosophy) Co-Chair
Mitchell M. Charkiewicz (Economics)
Robert Kagan (Communication)
Youngseon Kim (Marketing)
Maria Mongillo (Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology)

**Overview of numbers:**

**2019-2020**
140 Faculty nominated
76 Portfolios were submitted
66 Full-time Faculty
10 Part-time Faculty

**2018-2019**

170 Faculty nominated
73 Portfolios were submitted
65 Full-time Faculty Full-time Faculty
8 Part-time Faculty

**2017-2018**
Over 170 Faculty nominated
83 Portfolios were submitted
76 Full-time Faculty
7 Part-time Faculty

**2016-2017**
252 Faculty nominated
109 Portfolios were submitted
98 Full-Time Faculty
11 Part-Time Faculty

**2015-2016**
206 Faculty nominated
78 Portfolios were submitted
69 Full-Time Faculty
9 Part-Time Faculty

**2014-2015**
76 Faculty nominated
43 Portfolios were submitted
42 Full-Time Faculty
1 Part-Time Faculty