

The 2026 Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award

Purdue University is proud to announce the inaugural ***Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award***, established by the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholars (OGSPS) to formally acknowledge the essential role postdoctoral trainees play in advancing our research, teaching, and engagement missions.

This prestigious award recognizes postdocs who serve as exceptional mentors at Purdue University.

Exceptional postdoctoral mentors:

- GENUINELY CARE about the mentee's work and success, and especially about the mentee as a person.
- are RESPECTFUL—they visibly respect all lab or team members, from undergraduates to the PI.
- are DEDICATED to their mentoring and prioritize it over other competing demands.
- are HIGH ACHIEVERS and model scholarly excellence.
- are ACTIVELY INVOLVED at their institution and in their field; for example, you will see them contributing to graduate programs, department efforts, and societal organizations.
- are HIGHLY ETHICAL; they proactively observe research ethics, including setting high standards for honest reporting, and closely follow research and safety protocols.

Eligibility

Applicants must have their PhD and be engaged in postdoctoral training under a limited-term contract at Purdue. This can include some Visting Scholars. If there are questions about eligibility, please email postdoc-affairs@purdue.edu

Application

Applicants should assemble the following in one PDF document in this order:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. A mentoring philosophy statement (500 words max)
3. One letter of support from a supervisory PI (300 words max)
4. One letter of support signed by one or more mentees (600 words max)

Selection and Award

This is a two-phase process, where each college or institute selects one finalist to be considered for the institutional award. Each finalist will be recognized by OGSPS as the top mentor for their respective college. From among finalists, OGSPS will then select one institutional winner who will be distinguished with a \$1,500 check and invited to the OGSPS Awards Reception on April 23rd, 2026.

Timing

OGSPS must receive your college's finalist packet by February 13, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET. **Please contact your college's Associate Dean to know their submission deadline to be considered as a finalist for this award.**

Again, your college should serve as a point of contact. Finalist packages from colleges should be emailed to: Lori Miller, mill2071@purdue.edu