Announcing the 2018 Postdoctoral Award for Exceptional Mentoring

Has a postdoc made a difference in your life this year? Whether in the lab, field, or classroom, the Graduate School would like to acknowledge and encourage the time, patience and attention postdocs invest in students while pursuing their own research and career goals.

The Graduate School’s Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is pleased to announce the University of Nevada, Reno’s first Mentoring Award for Postdoctoral Scholars. Postdocs play a vital role in our research, teaching and outreach missions here at UNR, and exceptional postdocs can play a transformative role in the development of the next generation of researchers.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is seeking nominations for exceptional UNR postdocs who dedicate time, energy and effort to mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. To nominate your postdoc, please submit a one-page nomination letter providing examples of how the postdoc has impacted your research group, the University and/or the community as a mentor. Nominations are due March 20th, 2018. The Postdoc Mentoring Award recipient will receive a one-time honorarium of $1,000 and a certificate of achievement presented at the 2018 “Honor the Best” ceremony on May 15th.

Submissions are limited to a single, one-page letter, and can be submitted by UNR students, postdocs, faculty, or staff. Collaborations on letters are welcome, but multiple letters will not be accepted. If multiple letters are submitted, we will ask you to combine them into a single submission.

Letters of nomination should be no longer than one page and should include:

1) Nominated postdoc trainee's name
2) Department affiliation, along with program or lab group as relevant
3) Your relationship(s) to the postdoc (nominations can come from UNR faculty, students, staff, and fellow postdocs)
4) Descriptive account of how the postdoc has served as a mentor for undergraduate/graduate students in particular, and other mentoring examples as appropriate
5) 2-3 sentence summary of the postdoc’s academic and professional accomplishments relative to their discipline

Email the final document to zarndt@unr.edu by March 20th, 2018 5pm or use the online form at: https://www.unr.edu/postdoc.

An expert review committee will evaluate the quality and impact of the postdoc’s mentoring contributions, so specific examples are encouraged with particular attention to the following attributes:

1) Demonstrated record of mentoring and serving as a role model for students:
   "Attributes of a good mentor include being approachable, available, and willing to share his/her knowledge; listening effectively; providing encouragement and constructive criticism; and offering expertise and guidance”

1 Adapted from: Compact between Postdoctoral Appointees and Their Mentors, 2006
2) Ability to balance excellence in mentoring with excellence in research and scholarship, including strengths in collaborative efforts, publication and presentation records.
3) Contribution toward supporting traditionally underrepresented groups within the postdoc’s discipline.

Thank you for your support and recognition of the role postdocs play in our undergraduate and graduate learning environments, as well as the teaching, research, and service missions of the University of Nevada, Reno.

**The application deadline is March 20th, 2018, by 5pm.** The award recipient will be announced by March 26th, 2018 on the postdoc listserv and recognized at UNR’s “Honor the Best” ceremony on Tuesday, May 15th. The award winner will receive $1,000 in discretionary funds and a certificate of achievement.

Questions? Contact Rachel Zarndt, Director Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at rzarndt@unr.edu.