



INDIVIDUAL OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

2026 Criteria and Nomination Procedures

The Outstanding Educator Awards were established to honor outstanding performance during the academic year preceding the annual Trends in Occupational Studies Conference. Faculty from career programs are eligible. Up to three (3) individual awards are given each year to faculty nominees determined to be the “most outstanding” based upon evaluation by a panel of reviewers. Distribution of awards based on teaching area is not a consideration.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION: Nominations are to be submitted in essay form and should indicate why the nominee should be chosen as the Trends in Occupational Studies Outstanding Faculty. Nominations should be typed using a maximum of two (2) pages double spaced. The readers will review the nominations and assign points for each of the following criteria as indicated. **To insure anonymity, please do not include the faculty or the college name in the nomination.**

The criteria to be used in evaluating nominations are as follows:

1. **EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE CLASSROOM** – Recognition of outstanding teaching practices with students in the classroom; the use of innovative teaching methodologies; instructional/educational leadership in the development or promotion of teaching practices within the college to improve learning, student performance, outcomes and leadership in the use of new technologies for instruction and student learning. 50 points maximum.
2. **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS** – Professional contribution to faculty member’s discipline or education, professional association activities and leadership, professional publications, presentations at conferences, completion of specialized training or professional development to maintain competency in one’s discipline to ensure quality of courses and programs, research to enhance one’s discipline or education. 30 points maximum.
3. **SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE** – Service and contributions made to areas of the college beyond the individual’s area of teaching. Service and contributions that promote alliances with business and industry to enhance programs, provide credit and non-credit courses or programs, provide worksite placements during and after program completion. Service-oriented activities, promotion of the college. 20 points maximum.

NOTE: Nominees must have been 100% full-time faculty members during the previous two (2) academic years. The determination will be made by MODAC's Trends occupational contact person with verification provided by the nominating college's occupational contact person prior to the forwarding of nominations to the readers. Each college may nominate up to three (3) faculty members for this award.

[The Outstanding Educator Nomination Form](#)

Nominations are due by June 30, 2026.