Diversity and Inclusion Committee - Commitment to Diversity Award

The College of Education Diversity and Inclusion Committee recognizes the value of diversity in persons and perspectives. As an educative and advisory body, our goal is to create an environment where all members of the COE community can thrive personally and professionally.

Purpose of the Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee serves the College of Education by:

- Advocating issues of diversity for faculty, staff, and students
- Advising the leadership team on issues of recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty, staff, and student body
- Providing and coordinating support services to ensure all faculty, staff, and students are heard and are part of an inclusive environment

The Diversity Committee seeks to increase awareness of diversity and maintain an inclusive environment through:

- Creating a pipeline for diverse students to earn degrees in education
- Creating professional development opportunities for faculty and staff
- Recognizing faculty and staff who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity
- Supporting and retaining diverse faculty and staff
- Publicizing information about diversity related events within the college and across campus

Towards that end, in our search to find ways to recognize faculty and staff for their diversity and inclusion efforts we submit the following details on the criteria for the diversity award.

GSU College of Education Commitment to Diversity Award is designated to honor College of Education faculty and staff, who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to diversity and inclusion. Self-nominations are welcomed, and any faculty or staff member can submit a nomination to recognize a colleague’s excellent work and achievement in diversity. Faculty and staff with three or more years’ experience at GSU are eligible to apply.

Primary Criteria:

- Implemented or developed an innovative program, policy, participated in activities, and/or teaching that has served to inform the college community about topics related to diversity and/or enhanced culture by creating a more inclusive and welcoming community in the College, or
- Actively supported diversity initiatives, programs, and educational opportunities in the College of Education and contributed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.
• The contributions should have a positive effect on building respect and community within the College and/or in the educational context, for students in the classroom and/or in experiential learning opportunities.

Application Materials (Similar to the University Award framework)
- Cover letter to committee expressing interest in the award identifying how the nominee has engaged in activities relevant to the award (2 pages or less)
- Abbreviated vita or resume which includes relevant courses, research, service, and other relevant activities (5 pages or less)
- For Faculty Nominees: Narrative that describes how diversity and inclusion is exhibited in teaching, research and or service (5 pages or less)
- For Staff Nominees: Narrative that describes how concepts of diversity and inclusion guide or impact your interactions with students, parents, alumni, university faculty or personnel, and other university stakeholders (5 pages or less)
- One letter of reference (2 pages or less)
- Other artifacts as warranted to better illustrate the applicant’s commitment to diversity (5 pages or less)
- TOTAL Application packet should be no more than 20 pages.

Procedures
January 24 – March 1 Nominations Open (Self and colleague nominations are welcome)
March 31st – Submit all application packets
(electronic submission only to mecawilliams@georgiasouthern.edu)
April - D & I Committee Review
May 1st - Award recipient name sent to the dean’s office
August - Award given at the COE Kick off

Award
The winner of this award will be recognized at our fall COE kick off meeting with a plaque and professional development funds for travel or research in the amount of $500.00.