

JERRY G. GAFF FACULTY AWARDS FOR GENERAL AND LIBERAL STUDIES

About the Awards



These awards honor Jerry G. Gaff, respected member of the AGLS, retired Senior Scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and influential advocate for faculty leadership of general and liberal education. Gaff, who received a Ph.D. in psychology from Syracuse University, served on the faculties of five institutions and was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and acting president at Hamline University. He also served as Vice President of AAC&U and directed its Preparing Future Faculty Program. He has authored numerous influential books including *Strong Foundations: Twelve Principles of Effective General Education Programs*,

Toward Faculty Renewal, General Education Today, New Life for the College Curriculum, and Handbook of the Undergraduate Curriculum.



Since 2002, the AGLS has given one Gaff award each year to recognize faculty who have demonstrated leadership on their campuses, shown evidence of outstanding teaching in general and liberal education courses, and have a record of achievement in curriculum development, innovation, or implementation. In 2017, the AGLS Council voted to develop two categories for the Gaff award to celebrate the distinctive roles essential for strong programs and encourage the next generation of leaders in general and liberal studies.

There are two categories that a nominator may select from to honor a gen ed champion on their campus. Note: A candidate may be nominated for both categories, however, in differing years. The categories will alternate years—emerging campus leader in even years and outstanding teacher in odd years.

- **1. Emerging Campus Leader** is a full-time, instructional faculty who has demonstrated significant campus-wide leadership specifically in the areas of general education and liberal studies curriculum reform, revision, implementation, assessment, or administration.
- 2. Outstanding Teacher is full-time, instructional faculty who has a significant record of outstanding teaching, pedagogical innovation, and/or course development specially in general education programs, core curricula, or liberal studies.

In 2025 nominations will be accepted for the category of *Outstanding Teacher*.

Nomination Information

A complete nomination consists of:

1. Nomination letter from a faculty member or administrator at the candidate's institution;

2. The Nomination letter should clearly indicate why the candidate is being put up for consideration. This includes why they are an emerging general education leader on campus due to their campus-wise involvement;

3. Two supporting letters from additional faculty members or administrators at the candidate's institution who are familiar with the candidate's campus general education efforts;

4. A brief (no more than five pages) version of the candidate's curriculum vitae that summarizes experiences relevant to the selected category;

5. Up to five additional documents that attest to the candidate's achievements. These may take different forms depending upon the award. For example, involved in general education revision, assessment, accreditation, a growing level of general education responsibility, etc.

All materials should be submitted electronically in a single packet (.pdf file) via email to execdir@agls.org.

Recipients are selected by a panel of nationally recognized general education leaders, AGLS Council members, and past Gaff recipients.

Recipients should expect to attend the annual AGLS meeting to receive the award and may be invited to participate in a session.

Recipients will receive a plaque, complimentary Louisville Constitute registration, and an opportunity to speak with Dr. Gaff one-on-one.

The deadline for nominations for the 2025 awards is May 22.

The selected recipient will be notified by July 15.

The award(s) will be presented at the annual Constitute in Louisville, October 3 to 5.

The goal of the AGLS Awards program is to serve two national general education needs. Currently, little recognition is given to the creative program accomplishments produced by general education faculty and administrators committed to ongoing improvement. Also, a need exists for effective program improvement ideas and models, especially as institutions prepare for accreditation visits.