



University  
of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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January 9, 2020

TO: CAFE Chairs and Directors

SUBJECT: Nominations for University Research Professors Program

**Background:** The University Research Professorships were established by the UK Board of Trustees in 1976 to recognize outstanding research achievements. Each year, 2-5 faculty have been recognized with a monetary cash award.

The University of Kentucky Strategic Plan (2015 – 2020) for Research has an overall objective to expand our scholarship, creative endeavors and research across the full range of disciplines to focus on the most important challenges of the Commonwealth. Strategic Initiatives to achieve this overall objective include investing and recognizing areas of scholarly excellence, and recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty, staff and students.

Changes to the University Research Professorship Program are consistent with the above described goals and initiatives within the Strategic Plan. Specifically, the revised University Research Professors Program will recognize excellence across the full spectrum of research, scholarship and creative endeavors at the University of Kentucky.

As in recent years, colleges with less than 275 tenure-track faculty will be limited to one nomination, while those over 275 will be permitted two. **CAFE is limited to one nominee** and has established the following process and criteria for selecting the nominee.

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Priority will be given to faculty with a well-established record of excellence and outstanding contributions in their field of research. The college selection committee will consider the contributions of each nominee's entire academic career. Successful nominees must demonstrate a strong history of excellence in research, scholarship and creative endeavors in their field of science.

**Process:** Each nominee must submit an **application letter**, which includes the following: full updated CV; nomination letter from academic chair or senior faculty member; and three letters of support from colleagues of which one must be from outside the university.

A review committee selected by the Associate Dean for Research will evaluate nominations based on the criteria below.

Because CAFE faculty span the social, basic and applied sciences, engineering and design, we recognize that benchmarks for productivity and excellence in research, scholarship and creative works will vary by discipline. It will be important for the nominee to ensure that appropriate evidences of excellence are clearly documented in the nomination packet.

## Criteria for Nominees:

- Nominees must meet the VPR's minimum requirement for holding a 30% or greater research appointment
- Nominees must demonstrate a strong record of productivity as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, creative works, invention disclosures/patents, or other appropriate outputs for the nominee's discipline; there should be an indication of relative productivity when compared to peers
- Nominees should demonstrate history of receiving outside funding in support of work; success in attracting nationally competitive grants or scholarly awards (federal, non-profit, professional society sponsored)
- Nominees should include evidence of national/international recognition of nominee's contributions to their field (awards, service on editorial boards, invited lectures, etc.)
- Nominees must clearly describe the impact of the nominee's work on significantly advancing his/her field of research or by addressing an issue critical to the Commonwealth

**Awards:** The award amount is \$10,000 for one year, to be used to further the research, scholarship and creative endeavors of the awardee. Faculty receiving this award may use the title "University Research Professor" for as long as they remain faculty at the University of Kentucky.

Awardees will be announced at an annual Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting followed by a reception honoring the recipients. Finally, awardees may be given the opportunity to present a short description of their research, scholarship and creative endeavors to the BOT once over the course of the award year, as well as through other vehicles intended to highlight their research accomplishments.

More information on the University Research Professors Program is posted at:

<https://www.research2.uky.edu/internal-research-support-programs/university-research-professors>

Please submit applications electronically to [CAFEResearch@uky.edu](mailto:CAFEResearch@uky.edu) by Monday, **February 3, 2020** for full consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Houtz, Professor  
Associate Dean for Research and  
Director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station