



2026 Libby and Hiter Harris Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

CRITERIA

Libby and Hiter Harris Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Each VFIC member college is invited to nominate one outstanding faculty member for this award.
- The faculty nominee should possess seven or more years of teaching experience in higher education.
- The key criteria to be considered will be the nominee's professional history, reflecting a strong, clear, and abiding commitment to excellence in teaching undergraduates.
- The award will provide funding to support the recipients' research and professional development.
- Nominations are due by **June 30, 2026**.
- The award will be presented at a luncheon recognition ceremony in Richmond in November 2026.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination packet will consist of four parts and the application package should be submitted in the following order:

1. A one-page letter of nomination from the Chief Academic Officer of the VFIC member college, making the case for the candidate as a truly outstanding and highly respected professional with a deep and abiding commitment to the teaching / learning process.
2. Two letters supporting the nomination. One letter should be from a third party - e.g., department head, faculty colleague, and one letter from a current or former undergraduate student – giving additional perspective on the nominee's work and impact as a teacher. Letters should be no more than two pages in length.
3. A personal statement by the nominee, outlining his or her teaching philosophy. The statement should be no more than two pages in length using a 12pt font size with one-inch margins.
4. The nominee's abbreviated curriculum vitae. CV should be no more than three pages in length.

To be considered, a nomination packet must arrive at the VFIC office on or before **June 30, 2026**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted, and all documents should be sent as a pdf or WORD document file. Please send to Kristen Erickson at erickson@vfic.org.

Member colleges may resubmit nominations from previous years, if they so choose. All materials should be updated and sent as a pdf or WORD document file in the order noted above to erickson@vfic.org.

A faculty member may only be nominated for one of the three awards.



2026 Harris Rising Star Award

CRITERIA

Harris Rising Star Award

- Each VFIC member college is invited to nominate one outstanding faculty member for this award.
- The faculty nominee should be untenured and possess no more than six full-time years of teaching in higher education.
- The nominee should be one who has demonstrated great promise early in his/her career.
- The award will provide funding to support the recipients' research and professional development.
- Nominations are due by **June 30, 2026**.
- The award will be presented at a luncheon recognition ceremony in Richmond in November 2026.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination packet will consist of four parts and the application package should be submitted in the following order:

1. A one-page letter of nomination from the Chief Academic Officer of the VFIC member college, making the case for the candidate as a truly outstanding and highly respected professional with a deep and abiding commitment to the teaching / learning process.
2. Two letters supporting the nomination. One letter should be from a third party - e.g., department head, faculty colleague, and one letter from a current or former student – giving additional perspective on the nominee's work and impact as a teacher. Letters should be no more than two pages in length.
3. A personal statement by the nominee, outlining his or her teaching philosophy. The statement should be no more than two pages in length using a 12pt font size with one-inch margins.
4. The nominee's abbreviated curriculum vitae. CV should be no more than two pages in length.

To be considered, a nomination packet must arrive at the VFIC office on or before **June 30, 2026**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted, and all documents should be sent as a pdf or WORD document file. Please send to Kristen Erickson at erickson@vfic.org.

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A faculty member may only be nominated for one of the three awards.



2026 Harris Award for Excellence in Instructional Technology

CRITERIA

Harris Award for Excellence in Instructional Technology

- Each VFIC member college is invited to nominate one outstanding faculty **or staff member** (librarian, instructional technologist, etc.) for this award.
- There are no requirements for years of experience for this award.
- The nominee should be one who has helped to incorporate the use of technology in innovative ways in the undergraduate educational experience on their respective campus.
- The award will provide funding to support the recipients' research and professional development in incorporating technology in the undergraduate educational experience.
- Nominations are due by **June 30, 2026**.
- The award will be presented at a luncheon recognition ceremony in Richmond in November 2026.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination packet will consist of four parts and the application package should be submitted in the following order:

1. A one-page letter of nomination from the Chief Academic Officer of the VFIC member college, making the case for the candidate as a truly outstanding and highly respected professional with a deep and abiding commitment to incorporating technology into the undergraduate teaching / learning process.
2. One letter from a third party supporting the nomination. e.g., department head, colleague, or student – giving additional perspective on the nominee's work and impact on the undergraduate educational experience. Letter should be no more than two pages in length.
3. A personal statement by the nominee outlining his or her philosophy as it relates to the incorporation of technology in the undergraduate educational experience. The statement should be no more than two pages in length using a 12pt font size with one-inch margins.
4. The nominee's abbreviated curriculum vitae or resume. CV should be no more than two pages in length.

To be considered, a nomination packet must arrive at the VFIC office on or before **June 30, 2026**. Only electronic submissions will be accepted, and all documents should be sent as a pdf or WORD document file. Please send to Kristen Erickson at erickson@vfic.org.

Member colleges may resubmit nominations from previous years, if they so choose. All materials should be updated and sent as a pdf or WORD document file in the order noted above to erickson@vfic.org.

A faculty/staff member may only be nominated for one of the three awards.