



2023 Laney Graduate School Awards Nomination Process and Award Descriptions Nomination Deadline: March 8, 2023, 12:00 p.m. (noon)

The Laney Graduate School is once again pleased to announce an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of Laney students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Winners of these awards will be recognized at the 2023 Laney Graduate School Awards Reception in mid-April.

Nominations may be submitted via the link below. Nominations will consist of a paragraph (200-500 words) for all nominations and a CV/Resume/Biosketch (5 pages max) for faculty and student nominations only.

This year, any faculty member, including Directors of Graduate Studies, can submit nominations for these awards. For only the Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)/Program Director (PD) Award, Program Administrators may nominate their DGS/PD on behalf of their program.

More than one student may be nominated from each program, though the selection committee encourages faculty to solicit feedback from their colleagues (faculty, students, and PAs) to identify the program's top nominees. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominators are not required to submit nominations in every category, nor are they required to submit all nominations at one time.

Some awards will have multiple winners based on the following divisions: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Program nominations must align with the division the program is listed on the LGS Degree Programs page (If your program is listed in multiple divisions, you should select the division that aligns with the DGS/PD division meeting you are most likely to attend).

[Submit your nominations here!](#)

The award categories are as follows:

Early Career Alumni Award

The Laney Early Career Alumni Award recognizes a recent *graduate* of a Laney Graduate School program who has distinguished themselves in service to their fields of endeavor, to Emory, and to society in general. Nominees must have received a degree from Laney Graduate School within the past 5 years and have demonstrated significant strides (broadly defined) within their field, community, and/or society at large. There should be some discernible connection between the nominees' contributions and their graduate program at Laney.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be any *graduate* of their program whose degree was conferred between 2017 and 2022.
- **Number of Awards:** 1

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Laney Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a *graduate* of a Laney Graduate School program who has distinguished themselves in service to their fields of endeavor, to Emory, and to society in general. Nominees must have received a degree from Laney Graduate School at least 6 years ago and have made a distinctive contribution (broadly defined) to their field, community, and/or society at large. There should be some discernible connection between the nominees' contributions and their graduate program at Laney.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be any *graduate* of their program whose degree was conferred in 2016 or earlier.
- **Number of Awards:** 1

Inclusive Excellence Award

The Laney Award for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education acknowledges extraordinary achievements by *faculty and students* that help create an environment of inclusive excellence in graduate education. Examples include recruiting, retaining, and successfully matriculating students with graduate degrees who are historically or currently underrepresented in their field (individuals whose gender and/or racial and/or ethnic identities are underrepresented in their field, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and students and faculty with disabilities). The ideal nominee employs teaching and/or research strategies that advance inclusive excellence, engages in service activities that build a more inclusive graduate community, and/or produces effective strategies to address barriers that have prevented full participation of graduate students from historically or currently underrepresented groups in graduate fields and the profession.

- **Eligibility:** Nominees could be two individuals: 1) a *graduate (master's or doctoral) student* in their LGS graduate program, 2) a member of the LGS *graduate faculty*.
- **Number of Awards:** 6:
 - Student Awards: 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)
 - Faculty Awards: 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)

Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies/Program Director Award

This award recognizes a *Director of Graduate Studies or Program Director* who provides outstanding support for graduate programs and their students. Criteria for the award include **Program Leadership:** leading critical and thoughtful discussions regarding program innovation, excellence in recruitment, and student advocacy; cultivating and contributing to a climate of inclusion and support for faculty, students, and staff from diverse backgrounds with varied experiences. **Student Development:** providing students with constructive feedback and thoughtful guidance in dealing with academic challenges, defining professional goals, and accessing relevant resources; helping students develop a sense of voice, agency, and community within their academic program and their disciplinary field. **Faculty/Staff Engagement:** working with program faculty and staff to ensure clear and consistent communication, interpretation, and application of policies and procedures; promoting faculty input and discussion of graduate student concerns and ideas as related to program expectations and needs.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be a *master's or doctoral DGS/PD* who has served in the role during the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 academic years.
- **Number of Awards:** 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)

Outstanding Program Administrator Award

The Laney Outstanding Program Administrator Award recognizes a *Graduate Program Administrator* who consistently provides exceptional support for graduate programs, students, faculty, and other key constituents. Criteria for the award include **Innovation**: proven track record of being forward-thinking, creative, and solution oriented; **Support Services**: displays a positive attitude and genuine interest in the program community, is professional and handles all matters with tact and appropriate sense of urgency, and a willingness to go above and beyond to ensure a student-focused program; **Positive Influence**: contributes to a positive workplace environment by interacting with colleagues and students in a friendly and responsive manner, exhibits a high level of enthusiasm and commitment to graduate education in the Laney Graduate School, and successfully works alongside others to promote a culture of teamwork and collaboration.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be a *Program Administrator of a master's or doctoral program* who has served in the role during the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 academic year
- **Number of Awards:** 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant/Associate Award

The Laney Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant/Associate Award recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of *student instructors* who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and excellence as teachers. Nominees should demonstrate the highest levels of commitment, creativity, and skill in the classroom; exceptional ability in foundational skills of pedagogy; commitment to continuous growth and creativity in their teaching; service as outstanding mentors to their students and peers; and scholarly growth during their graduate training.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be any *doctoral student* who has served as a Teaching Assistant, Teaching Associate, or Graduate Instructor at Emory.
- **Number of Awards:** 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)

Outstanding Master's Student Award

The Laney Outstanding Master's *Student* Award recognizes exceptional achievement in master's studies. Nominees must demonstrate excellence in scholarship through contributions and other accomplishments that are appropriate for their academic field. Nominees may be students in the master's year of their 4+1 program.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be any LGS *master's student*
- **Number of Awards:** 1

Outstanding Scholarly Research Award

The Laney Outstanding Scholarly Research Award recognizes the superior scholarly research of Laney graduate *students*. Nominees should demonstrate an elevated level of impact in their research, creativity and/or innovation in the research design or execution, and/or public outreach efforts related to the research.

- **Eligibility:** Nominee must be a *doctoral student*
- **Number of Awards:** 3 (one each in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities)

Questions about the Nomination Process? Contact Katy Leonard

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