



2021 Research Excellence Awards Information North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Summary

- The application period for the 2021 N.C. A&T Research Excellence Awards is now open!
- Active research faculty can nominate themselves directly to the Division of Research and Economic Development.
 - All applications must be submitted **as a single PDF file via [Competition Space](https://competition-space.ncat.infoready4.com)** (ncat.infoready4.com).
You will receive confirmation when your application is received successfully.

Important Dates to Remember

- Applications from faculty are due **Friday, February 26, 2021 at 5pm EST**. No late applications will be accepted.
- Winners will be notified in March.
- Winners will be honored and receive their awards at the Faculty Excellence Awards Celebration.

This Document Contains Information on:

1. Basics
2. Eligibility and Award Descriptions
3. Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for Research and Creative Productivity
4. Research Awards Committee(s)
5. Procedures for Submission of Applications
6. Complete Application Checklist
7. Awards
8. Applicant Cover Sheet
9. Timetable for Research Excellence Awards Program

1. Basics

- Each active research faculty member can apply for ONE of the first four categories listed below,:
 - Senior Researcher of the Year
 - Outstanding Young Investigator
 - Rookie of the Year
 - Interdisciplinary Team Award.
- Any researcher (including applicants to the above-referenced awards) can apply for the Intellectual Property (IP) Award.
- Each award has a separate entry in Competition Space. Be sure to select the correct entry/category for your application.
- Applications will be judged by the Research Awards Committee(s), whose members are

appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development or his/her designee.

2. Eligibility and Award Descriptions

Up to five University Research Excellence Awards may be given each year. In the event of a tie in any category, recipients will split the monetary award. Criteria for each award are as follows:

Senior Researcher of the Year

Applicants must be N.C. A&T tenured faculty members or non-teaching research scientists currently conducting research and/or creative productivity. They must have been at N.C. A&T for a minimum of three academic years before application. As with the other awards, the judges will base their scores only on work conducted at N.C. A&T.

Guidelines:

- (1) Applicants are currently involved in research and/or creative work;
- (2) Previous recipients of the award within the past 10 years (Academic Year 2010-2011 and later) are ineligible;
- (3) Faculty members who serve as deans or in other senior administrative positions at the college or university level are NOT eligible, however department chairs ARE eligible.

Outstanding Young Investigator

Applicants must be non-tenured, tenure-track faculty members or non-teaching research scientists at N.C. A&T.

Guidelines:

- (1) Applicants are currently involved in research and must show promise of making a significant contribution to their field;
- (2) Applicants must be in at least their third year of service at N.C. A&T, unless they came to A&T as associate professors, in which case they must be in at least their second year;
- (3) Previous recipients of the award are ineligible.

Rookie of the Year

Applicants must be in their **second year** of appointment as tenure-track Assistant Professors or non-teaching research scientists at N.C. A&T. They must demonstrate outstanding capability and exceptional promise for significant future achievement and potential value to the University.

Interdisciplinary Team Award

This award recognizes research projects that stretch across the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines. Nominated teams must include at least **two** tenured or tenure-track researchers or non-teaching research scientists from different academic departments. Researchers from at least two departments each must contribute at least 20% of the project's work. The project must have been active during calendar year 2020, and it must have received external funding (commitment from funder must have been received by the Division of Research and Economic Development by December 31, 2020). If the team involves another university, at least one tenured or tenure-track researcher or non-teaching research scientist from N.C. A&T must be included. Evaluation of applicants will be conducted under the appropriate guidelines and criteria listed below, recognizing that not all criteria for individual awards are applicable to the work of teams. In addition, the committee

may consider the extent of the interdisciplinary nature of the team (representation from more than a single College for example). Administrators who contributed significantly to the team accomplishments are also eligible to be included as part of the application.

A single NC A&T faculty member must be designated as the lead and upload documents into Competition Space.

Intellectual Property Award

This award recognizes researchers' work to disseminate, commercialize or publish intellectual property created in the course of their research or creative activity during calendar year 2020. **Note that this award covers activity over the *calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2020.*** Applicants must be tenured or tenure-track researchers or non-teaching research scientists at N.C. A&T. Faculty members who serve as deans or in other senior administrative positions at the school/college or university level are not eligible, however department chairs are eligible, as are past winners.

The criteria used to judge the Intellectual Property Award is different than that for the other four awards. Primary consideration will be given to the number of invention disclosures filed, patents granted and/or technology licenses signed. **These figures, which are not in dispute, will be provided to applicants ahead of time by the Director of Intellectual Property Development & Commercialization.** Additional criteria which applicants need to address in their application are related to entrepreneurial activity based on their inventive ideas, or other IP-related accomplishments that occurred during the calendar year 2020. Activity can include such things as:

1. Forming a start-up company
2. Partnering with small businesses to promote new technologies where the researcher is considered an expert
3. Teaming with others to form or enhance a start-up
4. Obtaining grant funding directly related to developing commercial applications of the researcher's invention or related technology
5. Copyrights in the case of books and other major works (journal articles, book chapters, conference presentations will not be considered)
6. Engaging in innovation activities/efforts

3. Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for Research and Creative Productivity

Judges will consider work conducted only while the applicant has been a faculty member at N.C. A&T. In the first four awards, the evaluation of research and creative productivity requires consideration of the factors listed below and must consider the quality and significance of each contribution. In the case of the Senior Researcher of the Year award, *sustained* research and creative productivity are considered as well. (The fifth award, the Intellectual Property Award, has different criteria, 1-6, explained above in its own section.)

Applicants should address the following factors, 1-13, in that order, in their application:

1. Authorship or co-authorship of peer-reviewed published materials such as journal articles, articles in conference proceedings, monographs, books, book chapters, artistic works, software development, or other professional and technical documents (citations only; full texts of documents are not necessary);
2. Authorship or co-authorship of published materials such as editorially-reviewed articles, articles in conference proceedings, translations, software development,

- cases, artistic works, or other professional and technical documents (citations only; full texts of documents are not necessary);
3. Citations received for publications;
 4. Competitive external or internal grants/contracts related to research and creative productivity;
 5. Fiscal and administrative responsibilities, including timely hiring of research assistants and the submission of notices of intent, grant applications, and grant and contract reports on time;
 6. Outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the University's research or creative capabilities (facilities and resources, research niche, marketability, relevance, recognition);
 7. Outstanding research or creative performance as evidenced by partnerships established internally and externally and by the formation of interdisciplinary teams;
 8. Securing intellectual property disclosures and patents/copyrights as results of conducting research and/or creative activities;
 9. Production and presentation of radio and television works, films, videos, exhibits, performances, or other works related to the scholarly or creative activities;
 10. Refereeing, editing, and/or reviewing journal articles, grant proposals, and book manuscripts;
 11. Serving the professional community through such work as organizing conferences, symposia, workshops, and/or performances at the local, regional, national and international level;
 12. Managing or serving as a consultant for exhibitions and performances; and
 13. Other documented research or creative activities such as service to professional societies and receiving external recognition.

As noted earlier, in the case of the Senior Researcher of the Year award, *sustained* research and creative productivity are considered as well.

4. Research Awards Committee(s)

The Research Awards Committee(s) that will evaluate applications and select winners is appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development or his/her designee. Committees are generally comprised of past winners.

The final evaluation of applications will be made by the Research Awards Committee(s). During deliberations, the Committee(s) may request additional supporting materials/ information from applicants.

The Research Awards Committee(s) may recommend to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development one recipient (or, in the event of a tie, two) in each award category. They also may decline to recommend a winner for any award category. The judges' decisions are final.

Please be aware that judges are colleagues with expertise in diverse scholarly fields. It is important to explain how each applicant's achievements qualifies as outstanding in the particular discipline represented. (For example, scholarly activity in fine arts may be described and judged in quite different terms from scholarship in physics.)

5. Procedures for Submission of Applications

Each application should be submitted as a single PDF file via CompetitionSpace (ncat.infoready4.com). **The deadline for applications is 5 pm EST Friday, February 26, 2021. No late applications will be accepted.**

6. Complete Application Checklist for All Awards

1. Application Cover Sheet/Abstract Guidelines—available in Competition Space.
2. A statement from the applicant giving an overview of his/her/their engagement in research and/or creative achievement and the work's relationship to N.C. A&T's research vision.

The statement should address:

- (a) the quality of the work,
- (b) the scope of influence of the applicant's work nationally and internationally, and
- (c) the contribution of the work to the advancement of the discipline.

The statement is limited to two single-spaced typed pages using at least 10-point type.

3. Supporting materials for the evidence of research and creative productivity should be listed by the 13 factors in the Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria (or the six factors for the IP Award).
4. A full career *vita*. Complete citations must be given for all published works; no copies of cited work are requested.
5. At least one, but no more than three, external letters of support should be included in the materials submitted for consideration. External letters of support provide reviewers with helpful insights about the contribution of the research or IP accomplishments to the discipline and society.

7. Awards

Each recipient will be given a monetary award and a plaque. The monetary award is paid-out in a paycheck following the Celebration.

Senior Researcher of the Year: \$4,000

Outstanding Young Investigator: \$2,000

Rookie of the Year: \$1,000

Intellectual Property Award: \$2,500 (if more than one researcher is involved, the winners will split this amount)

Interdisciplinary Team Award: \$5,000 (to be divided among the members as the PI or team leader feels is appropriate). If the team includes researchers from other institutions, including them in the award is at the discretion of the PI/team leader.

Each recipient will be recognized at the Faculty Excellence Awards Celebration.