

2026 Graduate Education Week Student Awards

Outstanding Advising/Mentoring (A/P faculty/staff) Nomination Form

Current and former graduate students, faculty, and staff are invited to nominate staff or A/P faculty who exhibit the qualities of excellent graduate advising and mentoring.

Nominee's name _____ Nominee email _____

Nominator _____ Nominator email _____

AWARD CRITERIA

Nominators are encouraged to think about the many and diverse ways in which staff and A/P faculty contribute to the development and support of graduate students, including but not limited to:

- Help in navigating the graduate school system, policies and procedures
- Exemplary guidance toward academic and/or professional success through high-quality information and advice
- Service as an advocate for graduate students
- Contributions to a safe, supportive, student-centered and inclusive environment
- Contributions to a positive student experience (e.g. developing and implementing programs that support professional and soft-skill development; creating resources that improve student satisfaction; advising and supporting student organization(s).)
- Strong communication skills and ability to connect with students
- Creativity and innovation in advising and outreach

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS/CHECKLIST

- ☐ Completed nomination form
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation, 2 pages maximum each, that address the nominee's work or actions toward supporting graduate students (*at least one letter must be from a current or former graduate student*)

To nominate a staff or AP faculty member, compile signed nomination form and all supporting documents on the checklist (in the above order) in a single PDF file. Upload this package through the following form:

<https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/student26>

Deadline: January 23, 2026

For more information or assistance, contact the Graduate School at 540-231-9561 or email grads@vt.edu
(type GEW Awards in the subject line.)

A Graduate School committee will select the winner and will present them with a certificate during

Graduate Education Week, March 23-27, 2026.

The Graduate School will send an announcement about the winner to VT News and various VT social media.