



2026 ALLIANT ENERGY JAMES R. UNDERKOFLEER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: April 24, 2026

PURPOSE

The Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards were created to recognize outstanding undergraduate faculty or instructional academic staff members in the Alliant Energy service area.

AWARDS

The Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc. and Universities of Wisconsin will bestow four awards in the amount of \$5,000 each. UW-Madison and UW-Platteville may each select two recipients.

AWARDS CEREMONY

We anticipate the awards will be presented at a special ceremony on October 29, 2026, at the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Representatives from Alliant Energy may participate in the ceremony. At the award ceremony, an official *Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching* award will be presented. The recipients may invite guests to join them at the ceremony.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this award the recipient must:

- Display an uncommon commitment to teaching (e.g., works to maintain a strong and current knowledge of the field; seeks out and develops innovative approaches to teaching, including effective uses of technology to enhance teaching; shares insights on teaching through presentations and publications; serves as a mentor or special advisor to students; and sponsors student-initiated projects).
- Employ especially effective teaching strategies (e.g., communicates high expectations; establishes good intellectual rapport with students; engages students in and out of the classroom in an active examination of the topic; conveys excitement about the material;

fosters conceptual and critical thinking; models and encourages an integrated view of knowledge; and respects and responds to the diversity among students).

- Have enabled particularly notable achievements by former students.

UNIVERSITY SELECTION PROCEDURES

Selection procedures will be determined by each eligible university. Universities are encouraged to ensure that the process is as thorough, careful, and fair as possible and that it allows for participation by all major constituencies of the campus communities.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Reflective statement by the nominee on their teaching and learning philosophy, strategies, objectives, and on how these have evolved over time (2-page limit).
2. A condensed curriculum vitae of the nominee (3-page limit).
3. One or two letters of support from current or past students (2-page limit each). At least one letter should be from a student with recent or current contact with the nominee.
4. One or two letters of support from colleagues qualified to comment on the candidate's teaching (2-page limit each). One letter should be from the department chair.

Nomination materials are subject to release under Wisconsin Open Records laws and should be written with the possibility of those materials being made publicly available.

RECIPIENT SUBMISSION INFORMATION AND DEADLINE

Submit all recipient materials electronically, as a single PDF, by **April 24, 2026**, via [2026 Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Award](#).

Direct questions to the Universities of Wisconsin Office of Academic Affairs at aaa@wisconsin.edu.