



## STUDENT SUCCESS AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Staff Innovation Award

As highlighted in our vision statement, Nazareth University “places special value on student success”. These awards recognize the outstanding work done to promote student success through innovation, advising, support, and mentorship. Award recipients will receive \$300 in recognition of their contributions to student success.

#### Nomination Process

This award is open to all current staff. Nominations from students, faculty, and staff must be received by **Monday, February 2, 2026** using this link [Nomination Link](#). No self-nominations will be accepted. Nominees will be notified by the Provost's Office by February 4, 2026.

**Submission Process:** Once notified of a nomination, all materials below must be sent to Laura Putnam ([lputnam4@naz.edu](mailto:lputnam4@naz.edu)) by February 23, 2026.

- The nominee’s personal statement addressing the award criteria (no longer than 2 pages)
- A letter of support from their supervisor or chairperson addressing the award criteria (sent by the supervisor or chairperson under separate cover)
- Note: All recommendations are confidential and are only shared with the review committee.

**Review Committee:** The review committee will be composed of representatives from across campus and include both faculty and staff representatives.

**Review Process:** The committee will receive the submission packet by March 6, 2026. The committee will select one winner. The awardee will be notified by March 31, 2026 and will be honored at the Teaching Excellence – Student Success Awards Ceremony on April 9, 2026.



### **Staff Innovation Award Criteria**

A shared commitment and an improvement-oriented ethos are hallmarks of colleges and universities that excel in promoting student success. By developing new initiatives or improving the quality, service level, or efficiency of existing programs, services or processes, all staff have an opportunity to directly or indirectly impact the student experience through creative innovations.

This award goes to an individual whose innovation exemplifies some or all of the following criteria:

- *Personal Meaning* – The innovation helps students develop a sense of purpose in college and perceive the Nazareth experience (both curricular and co-curricular) as being personally and professionally relevant to this purpose.
- *Personal Reflection* - The innovation helps students think reflectively about what they are learning and connect it to what they already know or have previously experienced so as to be better prepared for future personal and professional success
- *Self-awareness* - The innovation helps students develop self-awareness by becoming mindful of their learning styles, learning habits, and thinking patterns.
- *Informed Decision Making* - The innovation helps students seek relevant information and take responsibility for themselves and their decisions.
- *Active Involvement* - The innovation helps students become actively engaged in the learning process (both inside and outside the classroom), exploration of their major and career path, and in the use of campus resources.
- *Personal Validation* - The innovation helps students feel personally validated and that they matter to Nazareth.
- *Self-efficacy* - The innovation helps students believe that their efforts matter and that they can influence or control the prospects for their success.
- *Social Integration* - The innovation helps students become open to learning from those who have different backgrounds and perspectives, and improves their ability to form meaningful relationships with members of local and global communities.