SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Early Career Scholar/Service Award

I. Purpose
The purpose of the Saint Mary’s College Early Career Scholar/Service Award is to recognize tenure-track faculty at Saint Mary’s College who have excelled in the areas of scholarship or creative activity, and/or demonstrated exemplary service to the College. The individual’s scholarly success is evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, other scholarly and creative activities, and/or securing external funds for their research. The distinguished service by a faculty member at an early point in their career is evidenced by diligent efforts on College committees and various organizations that provide benefits to students and faculty.

II. Eligibility
To be eligible for the Early Career Scholar/Service Award, an individual must:

- Have completed two full years at Saint Mary’s College as a full-time faculty member
- Be pre-tenure faculty
- Have completed not more than six full years in his/her tenure-track or other comparable appointment
- Not have received this award previously

III. Nomination Process
Nominations for this award may come from the faculty, Chairs, and/or Deans; self-nominations are not allowed. Nominations should be in the form of a letter (maximum two pages, 12-point Times New Roman font) directed to the Office of Faculty Development, stating the reasons for nominating the faculty member and describing the accomplishments of the nominee in scholarship, creative performance/production, or exemplary service in an appropriate fashion to the award criteria. A copy of the nominee’s curriculum vita or copy of their faculty profile should be included. Accompanying supporting documentation is also welcome. Nominations are due by December 1 and the winner of the award will be announced the following February at the Scholar’s Reception. Nominations will be kept on file and remain valid for consideration for one additional year. Updates to the documentation will be requested for those in the second year of nomination.

IV. Selection Criteria and Process
In evaluating candidates for this award, consideration will be given to the nominee’s history of scholarly activities and/or distinguished service. Evidence of scholarly activity includes items a and b and evidence of distinguished service includes items c and d:

a. Publications in exemplary peer-reviewed research journals, exhibits in nationally-renowned galleries, and/or authorship of highly respected scholarly books. (This scholarship can include the scholarship of teaching and learning, or SoTL, and engaged pedagogy work.)
b. Extraordinary externally peer-reviewed funded grant activity and fellowships and demonstrated ways in which such awards contribute to the improvement of the research capability and recognition of Saint Mary’s College.
c. Exemplary service in support of organizations including supporting student initiatives and student clubs, College outreach efforts, and similar organizations that integrate College efforts to improve the local community and region.

d. Diligent service efforts on College committees that are elected or appointed which yield improvements in College programs. (Evidence of diligent service efforts may be bolstered through an additional letter or letters from faculty members, Chairs, or Deans who have served with the nominee on one committee or more.)

The selection committee consists of the Director of Faculty Development and members of the Committee on Teaching and Scholarship.

V. Form of Award
Each award recipient will receive a certificate and a cash award of $5,000 to be used at the recipient’s discretion. A permanent plaque listing annual award recipients will be on display in the Faculty Development Office. A profile of each recipient’s accomplishments will be featured on the Faculty Development website. If there are no suitable candidates in a given year, the award will be withheld.