SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Outstanding Scholar Award

I. Purpose
The purpose of the Saint Mary’s College Outstanding Scholar Award is to recognize tenured faculty at Saint Mary’s College who have excelled in the areas of scholarship or creative activity, evidenced by their peer-reviewed publications, other scholarly and creative activities, and/or success in securing external funds for their research.

II. Eligibility
To be eligible for the Researcher-Scholar Award, an individual must:
- Be a tenured faculty member at Saint Mary’s College
- Not have received this award in the past ten years

III. Nomination Process
Nominations for this award may come from the faculty, Chairs, and/or Deans; self-nominations will not be accepted. 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 nominee’s scholarly accomplishments 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. Nomination letters should include descriptions of why the research is notable (e.g. acceptance rates of journals, etc.) and provide other documentation that supports the case of the nominee. Nominations are due by December 1 and the winner of the award will be announced at the Scholar’s Reception in the following February. 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 scholarship and/or creative activities, recognition of outstanding achievements by peers, and importance of the work to the discipline and beyond. Evidence of such scholarly activity includes:

a. Publications in exemplary peer-reviewed research journals, exhibits in nationally-renowned galleries, and/or authorship of highly respected scholarly books.
b. Extraordinary externally peer-reviewed, funded contract, and grant activity, and demonstrated ways in which such awards contribute to the improvement of the infrastructure, research capability, and recognition of Saint Mary’s College.

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 plaque 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 Office of Faculty Development. A profile of each recipient’s scholarly accomplishments will be featured on the Faculty Development website. If there are no suitable candidates in a given year, the award will be withheld.