Distinguished Teaching & Learning Award (DTLA)
In recognition of Exemplary Teaching Practice
Updated February 8, 2011

Purpose:
The purpose of this recognition program is to provide a framework to recognize full-time or part-time faculty members who have established an exemplary, creative and effective teaching technique, practice, or activity at South Texas College.

Procedure:
• Committee Formation:
  Each division will establish a Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award (DTLA) Nomination Committee.

• Committee Chair:
  The committee chair for the DTLA will be a faculty member or a department/program chair.

• Committee Membership:
  The DTLA committee membership may include the division dean, faculty, staff, and students.

• Committee responsibility:
  The DTLA nomination committee will have the charge to accept faculty nominations for their division and to select a maximum of three faculty members for recognition for each academic year. The committee is not required to select 3 faculty members every year. The number of faculty selected for DTLA is based on qualified submissions. Some divisions may submit one, two, three, or none at all for a specific year.

• Selection Timeline:
  The committee will finalize their selection by the end of April and forward the names of the faculty nominees along with the one-page Nomination Form describing the exemplary teaching practice to the Office of the AVP for Academic Affairs.

Benefits:
• DTL award recipients will be recognized during the Academic Affairs Professional Development Day at the beginning of each Fall semester and receive the DTLA medal of recognition.
• DTLA web page will show case each DTL award recipient’s exemplary teaching practice.
• DTL award recipients will become part of an instructional resource group.
• DTLA recipients will qualify for another nomination after two years.

Criteria for Exemplary Teaching Practices:
Exemplary teaching can include an effective teaching technique, practice, and/or a teaching related activity. Criteria for the DTL award can include, but is not limited to the following:
1. Practice is transferable to other courses and disciplines
2. Uses innovative teaching and learning techniques
3. Uses an effective teaching practice to achieve student learning outcomes
4. Uses innovative in-class assessment to guide student learning
5. Develops techniques to address learning styles and higher thinking skills
6. Develops strategies to aid in skills development
7. Provides application of knowledge through active learning and/or service learning
8. Uses technology/multimedia to foster student learning

Criteria for Selection:
DTLA nomination committee for each division will collect and review nominations. The committee members may select one or more of the following methods to make their selection:
• Finalist will be invited to meet with the committee to discuss their practice/technique/activity and answer committee questions.
• Committee members may visit the finalist and observe their teaching technique/practice/activity and report back to the full committee. Review student evaluation of the faculty for prior semesters.

Submission of DTLA recipient’s information:
• The chair of the DTLA committee will finalize the nomination and selection process by the end of April.
• The chair will inform the Division Dean about the information regarding DTLA recipient(s).
• The chair will develop the one page Nomination Form, based on the documents submitted by the nominee related to the technique/practice/or activity, and submit it to AVP for Academic Affairs in the first week of May.