

Gary J. Hunter Excellence in Mentoring Award – Call for Nominations

Nominations due by Noon Friday, February 20, 2026

Via email to aft2373@gmail.com and vicepresident1@rowanaft.org

The American Federation of Teachers at Rowan University calls for nominees for the annual Gary J. Hunter Award for Excellence in Mentoring Rowan University students. We seek to recognize AFT members (faculty, professional staff, coaches and librarians) who go to extraordinary lengths to mentor students. Gary J. Hunter, a professor of history at Rowan for 29 years, exemplified the ideals of mentorship. This award acknowledges the efforts of those who mentor students in that spirit, making sure that while such efforts often go unnoticed, they do not go unappreciated.

The award plus an honorarium will be presented annually to the person whose efforts are judged by the selection committee to epitomize excellence in mentoring. By honoring individuals for their concerns for students, these mentors can serve as models for the entire University.

The recipient of the award will be honored at the *University Awards Ceremony*.

Criteria for Award

A fulfilling education and successful professional and career development is dependent on the mentoring relationships students form as part of the Rowan community. The sole criterion for this award is extraordinary mentoring. Nomination of a Rowan community member for the **Gary J. Hunter Excellence in Mentoring Award** should describe how the mentor has been exceptional in supporting, encouraging and promoting education, research, personal, career and professional development in students. Specific examples supporting nominations are encouraged. Nominees must be dues-paying AFT Members, but nominators can be anyone with experience with the nominees (ie- fellow AFT members, former students).

The following are just some of the qualities that can contribute to good mentoring. *These are listed in no particular order of importance, and a nominee need not demonstrate all these qualities:*

- Fosters development from student to citizen
- Promotes the intellectual development of students
- Shows concern for students as people and support of their personal development
- Sponsors students in academic/professional/local endeavors and elsewhere
- Develops talents, such as research skills, teaching ability, presentations, writing, preparation of grant and fellowship applications, etc.
- Organizes an effective environment for research and scholarship
- Serves as an advocate and guide in administrative, organizational and professional matters
- Provides sound holistic advice
- Sustains a long-term commitment to mentoring. Evaluation Selection Committee membership shall consist of at least 3 and no more than 5 AFT members from the following groups: faculty, professional staff, coaches, and librarians, with representation from different areas recommended.
- Members of the Selection Committee are ineligible to nominate for the award.

Nomination for Gary J. Hunter Excellence in Mentoring Award

Due by Noon on Friday, February 20, 2026

Via email to aft2373@gmail.com and vicepresident1@rowanaft.org

Nominee (must be dues-paying AFT member): _____

Nominee's Title: _____

Department or Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Position: _____

Your Program: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

Your E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Reason for Nomination

In no more than 1,000 words, describe how the nominee's mentoring has enhanced students' education, professional and personal development. In this nomination, explain your relationship to the nominee and why he/she has distinguished him/herself as a mentor. Consult the award criteria for possible qualities that you may want to cite. Share specific stories and anecdotes, as appropriate. If you are nominating a colleague, they do not have to contribute anything to the nomination but should be aware they are being nominated. If you submitted a nomination from the previous year (2024-2025) and wish to have it rolled over, simply email and state this or submit a revised and updated nomination.

Thank you for your nomination.