

Richard W. McDowell Award

Purpose of the Award:

“To select an Outstanding Academic Counselor at Purdue University, an individual who has gone above and beyond the regular duties as defined by the position to help students in their academic concerns, and to thereby recognize the efforts of all good counselors in each of the academic areas of the University.”

An excellent counselor will have an intimate knowledge of the courses in his/her discipline and a working knowledge of the courses and personalities in other areas of the University, where his/her students enroll. He/she fosters a climate that encourages student receptivity to his/her help by freedom from cynicism, recognition of worth of the individual student, and emphasis on the importance of personal goals.

The Richard W. McDowell Award is established in honor of Richard W. McDowell, a Purdue alumnus, who began his career at Purdue in 1949 and retired in 1991 as Professor and Associate Head of Freshman Engineering. Mr. McDowell served the University in a variety of capacities. His honors are numerous and include the 1974 Omicron Delta Kappa Best Counselor Award. Because of his exemplary service, this award presented annually by Omicron Delta Kappa was renamed in his honor and will be presented each spring to the academic counselor who best exemplifies the dedication and commitment to Purdue students that was shown by Mr. McDowell.

Nomination Guidelines:

Each school should make some explicit provisions for securing representative administrative, faculty, and student judgment in their school concerning appropriate nominations. Allowances should be made for the fact that one counselor, though he/she sees only a few students, may be more effective than another who sees many.

The nominee shall have had some primary academic counseling responsibility for undergraduate students during the immediately preceding two regular semesters. He/she shall have made a significant contribution to undergraduate counseling as a part of his/her academic responsibility.

A nominee may be nominated again every year, if not selected as a winner. Once a person wins the award, he/she is not eligible again. A list of the past winners has been included. A school may nominate only one candidate each year.