


MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Associate Deans for Academic Affairs and Department Heads in the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Education, Engineering, Natural Resources, Sciences, Textiles and Veterinary Medicine

FROM: Warwick A. Arden
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warwick A. Arden".

SUBJECT: 2025-26 Goodnight Early Career Innovators Award Program

DATE: August 20, 2025

The Goodnight Early Career Innovators Award Program, established in spring 2021 through the generous support of James and Ann Goodnight, was created to recognize and reward early career tenure-track faculty with outstanding promise for scholarly achievement and impact in STEM or STEM education. I am pleased to announce that the program is continuing for the 2025-26 academic year. This year, we will identify approximately 25 tenure-track assistant professors as Goodnight Early Career Innovators. Selected faculty will receive \$22,000 each year for three years for scholarship-related spending.

Nomination Submission Deadline
Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Nomination Process

The nomination process will remain the same as with previous cycles. Nominations are limited to all tenure-track assistant professors in the colleges named below.

Each participating college has a nomination cap, based on tenure-track assistant professor FTEs, as follows:

- Agriculture and Life Sciences - 11
- Education - 3
- Engineering - 11
- Natural Resources - 2
- Sciences - 8
- Textiles - 3
- Veterinary Medicine - 6

Eligibility

Nominees must be tenure-track assistant professors from a participating college at the time of application. Their scholarship must be clearly and substantively contributing to innovations and advancement in STEM or STEM education. No faculty member may be selected as a recipient more than once.

Selection Criteria

Nominees should show outstanding promise for future achievement and impact in STEM or STEM education. A strong nominee will have demonstrated superior scholarly achievement at an early career stage and will have a rigorous research agenda that speaks to the candidate's potential to advance knowledge in STEM or STEM education. Evidence of early productivity in research and innovation may include a strong early record of scholarly publication or dissemination appropriate to the discipline (including co-authorship with leaders in their field), external funding or recognition as an early career leader in their field (e.g. National Science Foundation or National Institutes of Health pre- and post-doctoral awards).

Nomination Materials

- Current CV and SFR (maximum 25 pages total)
- Letter of nomination from the nominee's department head addressing the nominee's qualifications and potential for future achievement and impact in STEM or STEM education (maximum two pages)
- Letter from the dean supporting the nomination at the university level and the nominee's potential for research leadership in the college (maximum two pages)

Submission Process

Please submit all nomination documents within two PDF files.

- Nominee package materials should be submitted using the following link:
<https://go.ncsu.edu/geci.nomination.submission>
- Submit separate PDF files using the proper naming protocol for the nomination components listed on the [submission worksheet](#).

Submit materials using the online form. Please contact Sherry Bailey, internal faculty awards coordinator, at sbbailey@ncsu.edu, if you have any questions or concerns regarding submissions.

Goodnight Award Advisory Committee

In fall 2025, a faculty-driven committee, with representatives from each participating college, will review the nomination materials and make recommendations to me. I will appoint committee members, based on the recommendations of their respective deans. Each dean will nominate two faculty members, one of whom I will choose to serve on the committee for the year. Preference will be given to previous recipients of the Goodnight Early Career Innovators Awards.

Timeline

I have established the following timeline for the year's process:

- **October 1, 2025:** Nomination submission deadline
- **October:** Nomination review period for advisory committee
- **Early November:** Advisory committee recommendation meeting (90 minutes)
- **Late November:** 2025-26 Goodnight Early Career Innovators Award announcement
- **July 1, 2026:** Funds available for 2025-26 Goodnight Early Career Innovators Award recipients

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Goodnight Early Career Innovators Award Program details, including eligibility and selection criteria can also be found on the [Office for Faculty Excellence website](#).

I look forward to receiving the nominations and recognizing the outstanding scholarship among our early career faculty. If you have questions about the nomination procedures or timeline, please contact Sherry Bailey at sbbailey@ncsu.edu.

cc: Kevin Howell, Chancellor
Kim Grainger, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence
Dan Monek, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Policy
Sherry Bailey, Internal Faculty Awards Coordinator