

Global Initiatives Leadership Awards 2025-26

Call for Nominations

The Global Initiatives Leadership Awards recognize VCU faculty and staff who demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing global engagement across the university. These awards honor individuals whose leadership and contributions support high-impact global initiatives that elevate VCU's presence on the world stage and advance the university's mission to expand the global impact of its research, teaching and service.

Awardees may be engaged in a variety of efforts, including but not limited to:

- Developing or supporting globally-focused academic programs or research,
- Advancing international partnerships and collaborations,
- Championing international student success,
- Integrating global perspectives into curricula or co-curricular programming,
- Supporting the internationalization of their unit or the broader university.

Award Categories

Each nomination should be submitted under **one** of the following award categories:

- **Academic programs or research award**: Honors individuals who have significantly advanced global learning or research through innovative curriculum design, globalized academic programs, or internationally focused research collaborations. Strong nominations will show clear impact on students, innovation in program or research design, leadership in academic initiatives, and potential for sustained impact.
- **International partnerships and collaborations award**: Recognizes those who have developed, expanded, or strengthened international partnerships that contribute meaningfully to VCU's mission. Strong nominations will demonstrate breadth and depth of partnership engagement, impact on institutional goals, leadership and initiative, and creative approaches to collaboration.
- **International student champion award**: Celebrates individuals whose leadership and advocacy have enhanced the academic, social, or cultural experiences of international students at VCU. Strong nominations will illustrate tangible impact on students, leadership in advancing student success, creative or innovative support strategies, and lasting benefits for the student community.
- **Global learning champion award**: Recognizes faculty or staff who have significantly expanded access to, participation in, or awareness of global learning opportunities—on campus, virtually, or abroad. Strong nominations will demonstrate impact on students and programs, leadership in promoting global learning, innovation in curriculum or programming, and sustained contributions to institutional global learning goals.

An individual may be nominated in more than one category; however, each nominee may only receive one award per year.

Eligibility and Nomination Process

VCU students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations for faculty or staff members who exemplify these commitments. Individuals may also self-nominate. Employees of the Global Education Office (GEO) are not eligible for these awards and may not nominate others for these awards (or write letters of support for nominees).

Each nomination must include a **narrative statement** detailing why the nominee should receive the award, highlighting notable achievements and impact of the nominee's work (e.g. on students, programs, or partnerships), leadership and innovation in advancing global engagement, examples of sustainability or long-term benefit of their efforts, and outcomes or results in advancing global engagement at VCU. Each nomination must also include a **letter of support** from the nominee's supervisor, chair, and/or dean that speaks to the breadth and depth of the nominee's impact within their unit and/or the university, provides specific examples of leadership, innovation, and measurable outcomes, and reinforces the sustainability and significance of the nominee's contributions.

Timeline

Nominations are now open and will be accepted through **March 16, 2026**. A selection committee will review all completed nominations, and award recipients will be announced at the **Global Initiatives Celebration in April 2026**.

Award

Recipients in each category will receive a **\$1,500 award**, transferred to their department to support professional development.

Submit a Nomination via the [nomination form](#).

For questions, please contact us at GEO@vcu.edu.