

LEAPS

*Leaders in Education:
Academy of Presidential Scholars*

LEAPS Scholar Awards for 2026 will focus on educational scholarship and innovation across the spectrum of graduate and professional education. Awards include:

- 1. LEAPS Educational Poster Award (no submissions)**
- 2. LEAPS Innovation Award**
- 3. LEAPS Rising Scholar Award**
- 4. LEAPS Equity Scholar Award**
- 5. LEAPS Outstanding Scholarship/Publication Award**

Submission Instructions

Carefully review the award descriptions and nomination materials requested for each. Self-nominations are permitted and encouraged, as are nominations on another's behalf.

Nominations will be accepted through **February 1, 2026** and will be announced in February. Awardees will be celebrated at the LEAPS symposium on March 26, 2026. (Details forthcoming.)

To submit yourself or a colleague for an award,

1. Combine all the requested materials into a single PDF file
2. Save the file with the following naming convention:

2026Award_[Surname]_[Award name].pdf

For example: Dr. Jones nominating herself for the Innovation Award would save her document as: 2026Award_Jones_Innovation.pdf

3. Email the nomination packet to LEAPS@umaryland.edu no later than February 1, 2026.

LEAPS Educational Poster Award (no submissions)

Description: The **Educational Poster Award** recognizes excellence in the creation and presentation of an educational poster at a LEAPS event. This award celebrates innovation, clarity, and the ability to effectively communicate complex ideas or research findings to a diverse audience. It is designed to honor posters that stand out for their visual appeal, scholarly rigor, and educational impact

Criteria: Content Quality (40%), Visual Design and Layout (30%), Innovation and Creativity (20%), Engagement and Presentation (10%)

Eligibility: All faculty eligible for advancement and promotion under the APT policies as defined by their UMB school who present posters the day of the LEAPS Symposium are eligible.

Selection Process: Posters will be reviewed by a committee of experts in Health Professions Education and will be judged using a rubric matching the criteria of the award. The winners will be announced during the LEAPS Symposium or other events. **No submissions will be accepted for this award.**

LEAPS Innovation Award

Description: The **Innovation Award** recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional creativity in teaching practices, curriculum development, or program implementation. The recipient is a leader in fostering innovative approaches that enhance learning outcomes, engage students in novel ways, and address challenges in education through forward-thinking solutions that demonstrate impact.

Criteria: Innovation in Teaching and Learning (60%), Impact on Students (30%), Leadership (10%)

Eligibility: All faculty eligible for advancement and promotion under the APT policies as defined by their UMB school.

Nomination Materials: Up to 3 letters of nomination will be accepted for each nominee. The letters should address, with specific examples, all items listed in the criteria. Supporting documents demonstrating innovative approaches and/or impact may be included, up to 10 pages.

LEAPS Rising Scholar Award

Description: The **Rising Scholar Award** recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional promise in the field of education through innovative research, teaching, and dissemination of educationally focused projects. The award celebrates individuals who are shaping the future of education by addressing key challenges, generating impactful insights, and implementing transformative educational practices. Recipients are typically recognized for their scholarly contributions, leadership potential, and commitment to advancing educational excellence.

Criteria: Research Contributions in Education (50%), Potential for Future Impact/Dissemination or Quality Improvement (30%), Leadership and Advocacy (20%)

Eligibility: Faculty with fewer than five publications in the *educational scholarship* domain, who are eligible for advancement and promotion under the APT policies as defined by their UMB school. (Note: Faculty may have more publications in their primary field.)

Nomination Materials: Up to 3 letters of nomination will be accepted for each nominee. The letters should address, with specific examples and citations of published or accepted scholarship, all items listed in the criteria.

LEAPS Equity Scholar Award

Description: The **Equity Scholar Award** honors individuals or groups whose scholarship significantly contributes to fostering inclusion, accessibility, and equity in education. This award recognizes efforts that address systemic barriers, promote diversity, and create opportunities for marginalized or underrepresented populations. It highlights work that embodies fairness and a commitment to creating an inclusive educational environment.

Criteria: Impact on Equity and Inclusion (60%), Innovative Approaches (10%), Scholarly Rigor (20%), Advocacy and Leadership (10%)

Eligibility: All faculty eligible for advancement and promotion under the APT policies as defined by their UMB school.

Nomination Materials: Up to 3 letters of nomination will be accepted for each nominee. The letters should address, with specific examples and citations of work, all items listed in the criteria.

LEAPS Outstanding Scholarship/Publication Award

Description: The purpose of the **Scholarship/Publication Award** is to recognize a faculty member for scholarly contributions to education which have led to a publication (book, book chapter, or peer-reviewed journal article) that contributes to the literature and/or practice of graduate and professional education. Articles and published works may be "submitted", "in-press" or already published works. If already published, the work should have been published within the last two years.

Scholarly education can be characterized by: (1) Purposeful planning (clear objectives and advanced preparation), (2) systematic implementation (explicit methods with measurable outcomes and theoretical grounding), (3) effective presentation of results (clear articulation of activities and outcomes), and (4) reflective critique (continuous, stepwise, and critical evaluation aimed at ongoing improvement) as defined by Glassick (CE Glassick, Acad Med. 2000, 75(9), 877-880).

Criteria: Candidates for this award should clearly demonstrate a scholarly approach to educational dissemination activities (e.g., scholarship of teaching, mentoring, educational research broadly conceived, development and dissemination of educational materials, educational design).

Eligibility: All faculty eligible for advancement and promotion under the APT policies as defined by their UMB school. Work that is under review for publication is eligible. The publication may have more than one author and may be an interdisciplinary effort. The award will go to the lead author (the lead author must be employed by UMB or one of its schools, regardless of the number of co-authors).

Nomination Materials: Up to 3 letters of recommendation for each nominee. The submission packet should include the work that fulfills the definition of educational scholarship.