

George J. Howe Distinguished Staff Award

About the award

The annual **George J. Howe Distinguished Staff Award** recognizes the contributions of an extraordinary University of Louisville staff member who exemplifies the traits of its namesake George J. Howe (humility, generosity, and excellence in leadership) as well as the Cardinal Principles. The winner each year is a staff member whose career has had an exceptional impact on the university and its vision to be a great place to learn, work, and in which to invest.

Nomination period

Nominations are accepted between **December 1 and February 15** each year.

Selection criteria

The winner each year is a staff member whose career has had an exceptional impact on the university and its vision to be a great place to learn, work, and in which to invest.

Recipients should demonstrate over the course of their career a remarkable commitment to the mission of the University of Louisville, its students, faculty, and staff, while exemplifying both the Cardinal Principles and the traits of George J. Howe through their humility, generosity, and excellence in leadership.

Nomination guidelines

- Full-time exempt or non-exempt staff in good standing in their department and the university and at least one year of service are eligible for consideration.
- Consideration for the award may include the nominees' length of service as an indication of their commitment to the university, but awards are not based solely on years of service.
- Nominations can come from any member of the campus community: co-workers, supervisors, faculty, staff, alumni, students, etc.
- Nomination forms will be forwarded to the selection committee (additional letters of support can be submitted via the nomination form).

Nomination Procedure

In addition to the nomination, the dean or vice president is invited to submit a letter of support. It is the responsibility of the nominator to solicit additional letters of support from students, colleagues, and others. A link will be sent to the nominator to share with those submitting letters.

Received submissions will be forwarded to the selection committee for review. The committee will submit its recommendation of the winner to the Employee Success Center for approval.

Requested Submissions:

- Description (150 words or less) of why the nominee should be considered for the George J. Howe Distinguished Staff Award
- Letter of support from the nominee's dean or vice president
- Letter of support from the nominee's supervisor
- Letter(s) of support from current and/or past students, colleagues, and others

NOTE: The letters of support must be combined into one PDF and uploaded to the Employee Success Center recognition website.

Award recipients

Since the award represents the highest level of achievement over the course of a career, **a recipient may only be recognized once**. The winner will receive:

- A commemorative UofL Minerva Chair
- Cash award of \$5,000
- Feature on Employee Success Center recognition webpage
- UofL Today recognition
- Recognition at the Annual Faculty & Staff Excellence Reception

About George J. Howe

George Howe was the University of Louisville's first Director of Student Activities and was a major force in developing the Red Barn as a campus location for student programs.

He started work at the University of Louisville on July 1, 1970. A native of Pennsylvania, George earned his undergraduate degree in 1965 from Muskingum University in Ohio and his master's degree from University of West Virginia in 1969.

As the first Director of Student Activities George was responsible for developing programs in the Red Barn. He and a team of dedicated students over the years helped make the Red Barn the premier live music venue in Louisville in the 70's and 80's. For more than 50 years the Red Barn has provided a location for student events and George acted as host for most of those 50 years.

In 2007 the Red Barn was officially dedicated as the George J. Howe Red Barn in recognition of George's lifetime commitment to students and the University of Louisville. That same year the George J. Howe Leadership Fund was established and endowed with initial gifts of more than \$10,000. George retired in 2020.