



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2017

TO: Texas Tech University Faculty

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, President

SUBJECT: Presidential Teaching and Research Excellence Professorships

The Office of the President is pleased to announce the creation of prestigious professorships to recognize and reward faculty excellence in classroom teaching and research and creative activities. These professorships are part of the ongoing efforts of the University to confirm its commitment to excellence in these core missions. Moreover, the opportunity to receive this type of recognition will provide the University with an important means to retain and recruit top-flight faculty members.

A total of 50 professorships will be equally divided between teaching and research/creative activity categories and awarded competitively based on nominations received from faculty members and departmental/area administrators. Nominations will be received and reviewed by the Office of the Provost in consultation with the Deans of the colleges from which nominations arise, with the final selection of recipients made by the President. Recipients will hold the professorship for a period of three years, with the possibility of renewal for another 3-year period based on annual performance evaluations and a cumulative 3-year review. Appointments beyond six years will require a new nomination. Each faculty member who holds a professorship will receive a minimum of \$5,000 per year in discretionary funding to be used in support of teaching/research/creative activities. Up to 50% of the funds may be used to support summer salary. Faculty members who already hold an endowed chair or professorship will not be eligible to receive a *Presidential Teaching and Research Excellence Professorship*.

The Office of the President will place a high priority on efforts to obtain donations to provide naming opportunities for these professorships, which will also increase the yearly discretionary funding available to the recipients. With a gift of \$110,000, the endowed professorship will carry the name of the donor and provide additional funding of almost \$5,000 (based on 4.5% spendable distribution), bringing the total funding to approximately \$10,000 per year. Alternatively, with a gift of approximately \$220,000, donors can provide for the entire support of the professorship, thereby providing a savings in University funds or allowing an expansion in the number of professorships at the discretion of the President.

Donations to support endowed research professorships to be used for research-enhancing activities may be eligible for matching funds from the State of Texas through the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). All TRIP funds received will be used by the University for the same purpose as the original gift and offset the commitment by the Office of the President to such endowed research professorships.