



## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of the Chancellor

September 1, 2008

Dear Faculty Member:

The Texas A&M University System is creating a new voluntary Teaching Excellence Award Program. This program is to recognize excellence in classroom teaching based upon the results of student responses to a uniform survey instrument. We are piloting this program at Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

This program is for all individuals who are teaching classes of three or more semester credit hours with fifteen or more students. Therefore, whether you are full-time or part-time, tenure/tenure-track, adjunct, lecturer, teaching assistant or another designation, you are eligible if you meet the above criteria and teach at least 90% of the course directly. The awards will be \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000 with additional bonuses based upon having more than 25 students in a course for the top 3% of faculty participating. And an award of \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$5,000 with additional bonuses based upon having more than 25 students in a course for the next 15% of faculty participating. Each faculty member may register each of their classes for the awards, but will receive a maximum of one award per year.

The awards will be based entirely on the uniform faculty evaluation form responses from the students in your courses. The questions are currently being developed with five questions coming from the Presidents and Provosts at system institutions, five questions developed by the faculty senates at system institutions, five questions from the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, and five from my office. The ultimate survey instrument will be completed by November 1, and will be distributed to the students in courses, which you have submitted.

The eligibility of an individual course based upon student enrollments will be determined as of the 20<sup>th</sup> class day. Courses that fall below fifteen students after that day will remain eligible. Faculty members must register for the awards program by October 1, and should visit your Provost's webpage for instructions on the registration process for your campus.

As a system, we owe it to our students to provide the best educational opportunities possible, and we owe it to our faculty to recognize the excellence that you bring to the classroom. I encourage all of you to participate in this program, and look forward to bringing the appropriate recognition and rewards to our outstanding faculty.

Sincerely,

Michael D. McKinney, M.D.  
Chancellor