The Sears Helgoth Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes the University of Northern Colorado’s (UNC's) commitment to high-quality and innovative teaching and the historical importance of the teaching mission at UNC by rewarding a faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to teaching and learning that result in the enhancement of the intellectual development and lives of students.

The award, supported by the generosity of Kathleen Sears and Jim Helgoth and administered by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated continued excellence in instruction for at least five years at UNC. The recipient will receive a plaque and a monetary award, currently $6,000.

Applications and nominations for the Sears Helgoth Distinguished Teaching Award may be submitted through March 22, 2019.

Applications for the Distinguished Teaching Award may be submitted and/or nominated by UNC faculty and staff, including contract renewable faculty, with a commitment of at least .4 FTE annually in instruction in four of the last five years. Applications will be reviewed and the awardee selected by a committee of assistant/associate deans and previous award recipients. The dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences will chair the committee.

The committee recognizes all instructional activity in an applicant's career and these serve as a base for evaluation. In spite of the complexities of judging between the various disciplines and delivery methods, the committee has the pleasure of selecting the most distinguished teacher among many.
To apply for this award, please submit a dossier of materials in the following order:

1. Application letter, including a statement of teaching philosophy.
2. Course evaluations from students. Please include five sets of course evaluations from a representative set of different classes over the last five years. Applicants are encouraged to aggregate the data where possible.
3. Syllabi and course materials—again representative from several classes over the five-year period.
4. Assessments, e.g., examinations, project requirements, scoring rubrics.
5. Peer/supervisor evaluations of teaching.
6. Letter of support from Chair/Director.
7. Vita.

Please limit materials to one binder. NOTE: Do not send original materials as they may not be returned.

The committee will give consideration in the review process to documentation that reflects excellence in instruction, including student evaluations and comments (original data and aggregations), teaching philosophy statement, attention given to assessments and feedback to students, and the use of innovative pedagogy, with primary emphasis given to data from student evaluations and feedback. The scoring rubric used by the committee includes: course evaluations, teaching philosophy, assessments information, student outcomes, evidence of reflective practice, innovative pedagogy, and overall impression.

The deadline for receipt of completed application materials is March 23, 2019. All materials (please note that we are only accepting physical dossiers) should be submitted to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Dean's Office to the attention of Edie Dolben. Please direct questions to Eugene Sheehan, Dean, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.