# College of Education

# Mary Kay Sommers Dissertation Award

**Deadlines:**

* Dean’s Office solicits nominations in **November**.
* The deadline for submitting nominations to the Departments is the **last Friday in** **January**. ***All awards are to be submitted electronically in PDF format to:***
* Curriculum and Instruction: Gina Haines ([hainesg@purdue.edu](mailto:hainesg@purdue.edu))
* Educational Studies**:** Jeanne Navarre ([jnavarre@purdue.edu](mailto:jnavarre@purdue.edu))
* Each Department submits their top candidate to College of Education Dean’s Office at coeawards@purdue.edu by 5:00 p.m. onthe **second Friday in February.**
* COE Awards Committee submits one winner to the Dean**.**
* Award is presented at the Awards Ceremony following the April COE faculty meeting.

**Purpose:**

Awarded to prior year COE graduates for the outstanding quality and strength of their dissertation.

**Application Procedures:**

Nomination packets must include the following.

* Dissertation Summary: The student will write a 3-5 page summary (excluding references) of the dissertation (Single spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins).
* Nomination Letter: The Dissertation Chair will write a letter of nomination addressing the quality and strength of the dissertation, addressing the following criteria:
  + Describe how the dissertation makes a significant contribution to the field (please be specific and provide examples of the type of impact this dissertation may make):
  + Discuss why the methods used by the student are appropriate to address this question (please be specific and explain in language your colleagues who may not be familiar with these methods might understand):
  + Anything else you would like to add about the student or the dissertation that will help us determine the quality of this student’s dissertation work.
* Full Dissertation. Submit an electronic copy of the full dissertation.

The 3-5 page summary and nomination letter from the dissertation chair should be submitted as a single .pdf file. The full Dissertation may be submitted as a separate .pdf file.

**Eligibility:**

Students awarded their degree the previous December, or in May, August, or December of the current year. (December graduates may submit only once.)

**Guidelines:**

The departmental review committee will develop a system to solicit dissertation award nominees and are responsible for getting them to the Dean’s Office by the deadline. Each Department will submit one departmental winner. Only one winner will be selected for the award; there will be no co-winner. The members of the COE Awards Committee will read the manuscript, examine the complete dissertation, and complete a review form (see attached). The College of Education Awards Committee will meet and rank the applicants.

**Criteria:**

Evaluation of the manuscripts will be based on the following:

* The contribution the dissertation/manuscript makes to the field of education.
* The quality and strength of the dissertation/manuscript in terms of:
* the purpose and rationale for the study
* the methodology and research design
* the analysis and interpretation of the data
* the findings and implications
* The quality of writing evidenced in the dissertation/manuscript.

See rubric posted on the Awards site.

**Award:**

Varies, but a typically $2,600 in a check, and certificate

Revised 3/15/23