

Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Award

DRAFT-January 22, 2025

PURPOSE

The University of Oregon Senate is proud to announce the creation of a new award honoring the legacy of Lyllye Reynolds-Parker, a dedicated mentor and advocate whose commitment to student success and social justice continues to inspire. This award recognizes individuals who, like Reynolds-Parker, exemplify exceptional mentorship by creating a supportive, inclusive environment and encouraging students to reach their fullest potential. It celebrates mentors who connect deeply with students, understand their unique paths and challenges, and offer guidance that has a lasting impact on their personal and academic journeys.

For more information about Lyllye Reynolds-Parker:

- Oregon News (August 29, 2024), [“Friends, colleagues remember the UO’s Lyllye Reynolds-Parker”](#)
- Oregon News (October 9, 2019), [“Lyllye Reynolds-Parker: Joy and the trails in a life of giving”](#)
- Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the Oregon Black Pioneers, [“Racing to Change: Oregon’s Civil Rights Years – The Eugene Story”](#)

ELIGIBLE

Professional Staff and Graduate Employees

SELECTION

The award committee will consist of five members, with representation from Multicultural and Identity-based Support Services (Office of the Dean of Students) and the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (Division of Equity and Inclusion). The Director of Multicultural and Identity-based Support Services will chair the committee (voting member).

CRITERIA

Nominees for the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Award should exemplify the following qualities in their commitment to student mentorship, support, and social justice:

1. Demonstrate a deep understanding of the complexities and layers that shape student identities and experiences, recognizing the full, nuanced stories that students bring to the university community.
2. Demonstrate support that values students' quiet strengths, especially those who may feel underrepresented or less likely to experience a sense of belonging.
3. Invests time authentically with students, fostering genuine joy and shared purpose by providing sustained support and reinforcing their sense of being seen, valued, and capable of achieving their goals.
4. Actively works to cultivate spaces where students feel a sense of belonging, empowerment, and capacity to flourish.

PROCESS

The award committee will consist of five members, with representation from Multicultural and Identity-based Support Services (Office of the Dean of Students) and the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (Division of Equity and Inclusion). The Director of Multicultural and Identity-Based Support Services will chair the committee (voting member) and provide administrative support in organizing and facilitating meetings. The Senate Executive Coordinator will distribute the call for nominations and share nomination materials with the selection committee.

Nominations should include a statement of up to 750 words detailing how the nominee embodies the award criteria, with specific examples of actions or activities reflecting the legacy of Lyllye Reynolds-Parker.