Dear Faculty,

The Office of Academic Programs and Undergraduate / Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the 2015-2016 Patricia O. McConkey Outstanding Graduate Student Awards/Graduation with Distinction. The award recognizes the outstanding students graduating with a master’s degree from each program. Each program may select a recipient based on academic performance, academic citizenship and the quality of the student's thesis, project, or comprehensive exam. Students who will have completed a master's degree between May 2015 and May 2016 are eligible.

Procedures for Selection of Awardees

1. Only one student from each program/option may be selected for the McConkey Outstanding Student/Graduation with Distinction award. If a graduate program has more than one “option,” each option may select an Outstanding Student.

2. Each program/option is responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting its McConkey Outstanding Student. Only truly outstanding students should be selected; if no exceptional students graduate from a program in a given year, then none should receive the award.

3. The nominees should be judged on the following general criteria:

   • Academic Performance
     o a minimum GPA of 3.5 at the time of nomination
   • Academic Citizenship during graduate studies at HSU
     o based on a qualitative evaluation of the student’s teaching effectiveness, leadership, and/or collaboration among peers, demonstrated through activities such as committee service, volunteerism, presentations, publications or performances, and the student’s service to the:
       ▪ Department
       ▪ College
       ▪ University
       ▪ Community
       ▪ Profession
   • Quality of Culminating Experience
     o based on evaluation of the student’s thesis, project, or comprehensive exam.
Deadline: **March 23, 2016 by 5 p.m.** Programs are expected to submit the names of their awardees to the Office of Academic Programs by 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2016. Please use the attached nomination form.

**Graduation with Distinction**

Students who receive the award will “graduate with distinction.” This title will appear on official HSU transcripts. Recipients will be invited to attend the **Outstanding Students Award Ceremony and Reception** (Recognizing Students Who Make a Difference) held **Thursday, April 14th from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** in the Kate Buchanan Room. Recipients are also allowed to purchase a gold stole for commencement that identifies them as graduating with distinction.
McConkey Outstanding Graduate Student Award 2015-2016

Student’s Name:

Graduate Program:

Option (If available):

Research Title:

Advisor's Name:

Brief statement about the student (1-2 sentences or so):