

1. Excellence in Innovation Award (\$7,000 monetary award)

Description: Recognizes University of Houston faculty who have demonstrated sustained excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship, with a significant and measurable impact in their field.

Eligibility: Open to all tenured faculty at Associate and Full Professor ranks who have held employment at UH for a minimum of five years.

Criteria:

- *Documented record of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral researchers in innovation and entrepreneurship.*
 - *(2) Compelling evidence of major contributions to technology transfer, or commercialization of research, or development of entrepreneurial ventures (e.g., engagement with commercialization or licensing of inventions; SBIR and STTR grant participation, NSF I-CORP or NASA iTech awards; new company formation; significant industry partnerships or angel/venture fundraises relating to intellectual property.*
 - *(3) Local, national or international recognition or visibility for innovation, entrepreneurship, or broad influence on practice and policy.*
 - *(4) Demonstrated viability of entrepreneurial technology, through licensing, business model implementation, raising funds or other such evidence of successful commercialization.*
 - *(5) Formed a startup company or engaged with industry partners to advance the inventions and technologies.*
-

2. Rising Innovator Award (\$3,000 monetary award)

Description: Recognizes a rising University of Houston research, tenure-track or tenured faculty who demonstrate exceptional promise and achievement in innovation and entrepreneurship, showcasing leadership in advancing new ideas, technology transfer, and entrepreneurial mentorship.

Eligibility: Full-time tenure track or tenured or research faculty (Assistant, Associate, or Professor of Practice). Must have been a full-time faculty member at UH for a minimum of three years at the time of nomination.

Criteria: Evidence of intellectual property, translational research, or product development, including patents in progress, licensing potential, participation in accelerators, and/or startup activity, and/or grant funding.

To apply, please submit the following information:

- 1) A letter of nomination not to exceed 2 page and a short-written endorsement by Department Chair and Dean of the College
- 2) A letter of support for the nomination (not to exceed 1 page) from a faculty colleague at UH or at another academic institution, industry partners, co-founders, start-up executives, or investors
- 3) 300-word description of the IP commercialization or entrepreneurial work (startups, commercialization/innovation grants, accelerators, training/teaching) and its impact on society) relevant to the respective categories (Excellence in Innovation vs Rising Star Awards)
- 4) Links to websites (ex. company URL, patents issued) and other media outlets (ex. press), and/or LinkedIn profile.
- 5) CV (4-page maximum, including one page narrative highlighting innovation and entrepreneurship).