



Never Choose the Norm Staff Award

Description

To recognize a UMKC staff member who dares to be innovative and push boundaries to help the university achieve even greater success in its mission of serving students and our community.

Nominees will:

- Demonstrate a willingness to be innovative and think creatively about how to produce positive change and bring new solutions to their work at the university. They are never satisfied with doing things a certain way just because that's the way they've always been done.
- Demonstrate strong, consistent commitment to pushing boundaries in their work to ensure that they deliver an uncommonly excellent experience whether they work with faculty, staff, students or external campus stakeholders. They live out that mission by pushing, pulling and constantly questioning the expected, all with a deeper sense of responsibility to themselves and their community.
- Make extraordinary contributions by inspiring and catalyzing others to collaborate in looking at challenges in new ways and creating unique solutions as they go about their daily work on behalf of UMKC.
- Celebrate the unique attributes that make UMKC a place that is different from other universities – a place where we exceed expectations in our mission of access for all students, extraordinary community engagement and civic outreach and our research mission. Individuals being considered for this award celebrate our agency, our differences and our unique role as an urban public research institution.
- Demonstrate the ability to inspire others -- students, faculty and staff – as they break the norm to enrich UMKC and the ways we live, learn and work.

Eligibility

Nominee must be a benefit eligible staff employee at UMKC for at least one year by the nomination deadline and be in good standing. Employees who have previously received the award are not eligible for nomination. All nominees will be reviewed by Human Resources to ensure they are in good standing with UM Policy.

Nature of Award

One \$1,500 stipend award + commemorative plaque

- Terms of Award: One time, lump-sum, non-renewable award payable to recipient as a taxable stipend. Previous award recipients are ineligible for repeat awards.

Nomination Process

Candidates are nominated by Faculty, Staff and/or Students from UMKC. To nominate a candidate, complete and submit the [Nomination Form](#) by **January 9, 2026**.

- For a candidate to be considered, a minimum of two individuals must complete and submit separate nomination forms.

Selection Process

The Staff Awards Selection Committee, comprised of a current UMKC Student, Staff Council Representative, Faculty Senate Representative, Administrative Council Representative, UMKC Retiree, and a Board of Trustees Representative, will meet to review all nominations and select the most qualified recipient based upon the qualifying criteria identified above.

Recognition

Award Recipient will be recognized at the Annual University Staff Awards Ceremony on March 31, 2026.

Questions? Please contact umkchr@umkc.edu.