

Dear Students,

Each year, HGSE seeks to recognize the outstanding instruction and support provided by faculty members with [the Morningstar Family Teaching Award](#). **I am writing today to request your nominations of HGSE faculty for this important distinction.** Please consider the following criteria: (1) excellence in teaching; (2) excellence in advising; and (3) evidence of a caring, respectful, and enthusiastic commitment to students. Recent recipients of the Morningstar Award include: Andrew Ho (2020), Joe McIntyre (2019), Liz City (2018), Karen Brennan (2017), Gretchen Brion-Meisels (2016), Deborah Jewell-Sherman (2015), and Jal Mehta (2014).

Nominating Faculty Members for the Morningstar Award

Please submit your nominations via [this online form](#) through Friday, April 30th. You are asked to nominate faculty members based on the Morningstar Award ideals, as well as to write 300-500 words describing teaching and advising experiences with the nominee. Based on the submitted testimonials, the Dean's Office will review, discuss, and select the Morningstar Award recipient, which will be announced as part of our virtual commencement exercises. In addition to recognition from the community, the award includes a monetary prize and acknowledgement on a plaque displayed outside Askwith Hall.

The Morningstar Award is your opportunity to recognize faculty members who have helped to guide and support your studies. Please contact Meg McDermott with any questions regarding this award at meagan_mcdermott@gse.harvard.edu, and thank you for your time and participation in this process to celebrate our learning and teaching.

Opportunities for Optional HGSE Campus Experiences

As we look ahead, we are hopeful about being able to create opportunities for you to connect in person with each other and the faculty and staff who have had a positive impact on your experience. With the expansion of the COVID vaccine and the expected improvement in public health conditions, we are increasingly optimistic about reopening campus this fall. As such, we have begun planning a set of *optional*, on-campus activities that will cater to students who are graduating this spring (i.e., the Class of 2021) and those continuing in the two-year online program (who will complete their studies remote next year). Several options are being considered, including short, face-to-face opportunities for social and academic engagement during the January and/or May Terms, as well as events during several designated weekends to cater to those who work full-time. Our hope is to coordinate some of these events with the University's plans for future campus-based Commencement activities for the classes of 2021 and 2022. As soon as we have details and dates for campus-based experiences this coming academic year, we look forward to sharing more information with you. Moreover, as we emerge from the pandemic in the year ahead, we will also look forward to welcoming all of you as alumni to Harvard and the HGSE campus over a lifetime to come.

Best,
Bridget

Bridget Terry Long, Ph.D.
Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education
Sarvis Professor of Education and Economics