

**THE WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER AWARD  
FOR  
DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE**

The **William Rainey Harper Award** is presented triennially to an academic or support unit of the University that has, as an entire unit, fulfilled its mission at the highest level of excellence and demonstrated a commitment to an ever improving level of performance. Its eponym was President of the Faculty at Bradley University from its founding in 1897 until 1906.

**I. The Award**

The winning academic or support unit will have its name inscribed on the permanent plaque on display in the Cullom Davis Library and will receive both a crystal plaque for display in the unit's office and an unrestricted monetary grant.

**II. Criteria**

To be considered for the Harper Award an academic or support unit should submit substantial evidence that it:

1. Has broadly and in detail identified its own goals and objectives within the mission of the University and in keeping with the University's distinctive qualities;
2. Has a well developed understanding of how those goals and objectives are to be realized;
3. Has implemented that understanding through effective, innovative, and distinctive means;
4. Has assessed, and continues to assess, the results of that implementation;
5. Has developed compelling evidence through its self-assessment process that as an entire unit its performance has been truly excellent.

**III. Eligibility**

All qualifying academic and support units of the University are eligible. "Qualifying units" are units that are individually administered and of sufficient size to demonstrate collective rather than individual excellence. Questions about qualified status should be addressed to the Office of the Provost.

**IV. Process**

A call for submissions, including a closing date, will be made triennially. Units may apply, be invited to apply, or be nominated.

To be considered a unit must submit (1) an executive summary no longer than two pages that addresses each of the criteria in II above, and (2) sufficient supporting material to enable an independent juror to evaluate the quality of the unit's performance in meeting these criteria. The submission should not exceed twelve (12) pages including the executive summary. The panel of jurors may request clarifications or additional materials from applying units.

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of external jurors appointed by the President of the University. Support for the panel's work will be provided by the Provost, to whom questions about eligibility or other matters about the award should be directed.

The jury will recommend to the President through the Provost the submission(s), if any, it believes meet fully the Harper Award criteria. It may also make a recommendation about the appropriate monetary award.