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Each year outstanding achievements of UH-Clear Lake faculty are recognized in the areas of teaching, research and service. Specific guidelines are available in the President's Office. UH-Clear Lake Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes exemplary accomplishment in the craft of teaching, wherein the recipient is recognized as a master teacher by his or her peers. A master teacher is a model of substantive learning and rapport with students. The UH-Clear Lake Distinguished Research Award recognizes professional accomplishment in a discipline or field through published work, exhibitions, or similar activity, as recognized by peers for high contribution to the intellectual growth of an academic area.

The UH-Clear Lake Distinguished Service Award recognizes singular accomplishments in professional service beyond that of colleagues either in extending University services to the Houston Metropolitan Area and Gulf Coastal Region, to professional organizations, to the University, or to a combination of these.