

Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award:

The deadline for Nominations is on or before September 15, 2025.

Nominations sent to: Sherill Morris-Francis, svmorrisfrancis@pvamu.edu

Copy nomination to: Jason Williams, williamsjas@montclair.edu

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor criminal justice and criminology faculty members for innovative teaching methods. The goal is to identify, acknowledge, and disseminate innovation in relation to learning and teaching; therefore, the focus of the nomination should be clearly evidenced by specific practices that are replicable and effective.

Eligibility: The nominee must be: (1) a full-time faculty appointment (i.e., lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, professor) in a criminal justice department or program; (2) a member in good standing of ACJS; and (3) teaching courses in criminology or criminal justice at a regionally accredited, post-secondary institution. Nominees who meet the above criteria may be at any point in their career and can be either self-nominated or recommended by an academic colleague. Previous recipients are not eligible. Award recipient(s) are expected to attend the ACJS Annual Meeting and participate in the SAGE/ACJS Professional Development Teaching Workshop and present their innovative teaching method at the Workshop.

Award amount: \$3,000 per awardee

Number of Awardees: 1-2

Submission of Materials: To assist the award committee, please provide the following information:

Project Description: In 100 words or less, briefly describe the innovative teaching method being placed in nomination.

Significance: In 400 words or less, describe how the instructional method uniquely increases student learning and engagement while departing from other methods. Include any creative features and originality of this approach.

Innovation: In 500 words or less, describe how this instructional approach was actually applied in the classroom. (This method may include, but is not limited to, the use of new instructional strategies, the use of traditional strategies in creative ways, the development and creation of innovative teaching materials, unique pedagogical applications of technologies, novel

approaches to instruction, and innovative ways to engage students in the learning process).

Outcomes: In 500 words or less, please describe how the method was measured and determined to be effective and efficacious in enhancing student learning (student comments or course evaluations would be helpful but are not required).

Replication and Adaptation: In 500 words or less, describe the potential for others to adopt, adapt, or replicate the innovation, including a discussion of how the innovation might be used in other settings, in which type(s) of course(s), and the resources required. Preference will be given to innovations that have the potential for replication beyond a single academic course.

SAGE Editor's Note: This award is made possible by a generous donation from renowned author, academic, and practitioner, Ken Peak, coauthor of *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process* with SAGE Publishing. **Ken Peak** is an emeritus professor and former chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, Reno, where he was named "Teacher of the Year" by the university's Honor Society. Following four years as a municipal police officer in Kansas, he subsequently held positions as a nine-county criminal justice planner for southeast Kansas; director of a four-state technical assistance institute for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (based at Washburn University in Topeka); director of university police at Pittsburg State University (Kansas); acting director of public safety, University of Nevada, Reno; and assistant professor of criminal justice at Wichita State University. As of 2018 he had authored or co-authored 36 textbooks, two historical books (on Kansas temperance and bootlegging), and more than 60 journal articles and invited book chapters. He is past chair of the Police Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and past president of the Western Association of Criminal Justice.