The Faculty Award honors a faculty member who, in the opinion of his or her colleagues, has contributed outstanding service to the University, such as through leadership, mentoring, or exemplary dedication to students. Passionate about the preparation and instruction of his students, David Leighton has won multiple teaching awards during his 35 years at Notre Dame. Serving for a decade as the chemical engineering department’s director of undergraduate studies, he made a lasting impact on students while earning the appreciation of his colleagues. He has organized judging for the Northern Indiana Regional Science Fair for as long as most can remember, helping to sustain high interest in STEM subjects in the local community. Over the past year, the University called on his expertise in fluid mechanics and mass balances—principles he has long taught to undergraduates as part of the chemical engineering curriculum—to support the safe reopening of campus.

The University of Notre Dame is proud to present the 2021 Faculty Award to

David T. Leighton
Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering