
2026 FACULTY AWARD

The Faculty Award recognizes impactful and lasting service to the University of Notre Dame as a leader among faculty colleagues. Since arriving at Notre Dame more than 25 years ago, Christopher Kolda has demonstrated exactly this kind of extraordinary commitment. His extensive contributions include having served on or led more than 30 department, college, and University committees; and, in his home department, past experience as director of undergraduate studies (2006–09), associate chair (2012–13), and department chair (2013–17). In addition, he served as co-director of the Glynn Family Honors Program from 2014 to 2022, and was a founding member of what is now the Moreau College Initiative, an academic collaboration between Holy Cross College and Notre Dame that now serves nearly 100 students participating in 40 classes annually while incarcerated. A distinguished scholar and award-winning teacher, Professor Kolda is “respected and recognized for his balanced and even-tempered personality” and for his role in strengthening the mentorship of junior faculty within his department. In the words of a senior colleague, “he was the person whose judgment and counsel I trusted the most” in the face of difficult situations.

The University of Notre Dame is proud to present the 2026 Faculty Award to

Christopher Kolda

Professor

Department of Physics and Astronomy
