Outstanding Student Research Awards, created in 2008, recognize excellent student research.

Community Service Awards, recognize and encourage service by members of the CSULB family to the community within which they live.

Early Academic Career Excellence Awards, established in 2008, recognize the outstanding and extraordinary academic and professional achievements of faculty members, at the early career stage, who have made major contributions to their profession and the university.

Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, rewards sustained excellence in teaching by members of the university’s faculty including tenured and probationary faculty, lecturers, and librarians.

Distinguished Faculty Advising Awards, established in 2008, reward sustained excellence in advising by members of the university’s faculty.

Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor for Student Engagement in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity, established in 2008, honors student mentoring within the previous 18 months.

Academic Affairs Awards for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity, created in 2008, honor research, scholarly or creative work conducted over the previous 18 months.

Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award, rewards sustained excellence in scholarly and creative achievement.

Outstanding Staff Award recognizes staff who have made significant contributions to the campus community.

Outstanding Professor Award, encourages, rewards, and publicly acknowledges outstanding professorial performance.

Sarah Clingan
Psychology

Sarah Clingan has overcome tremendous odds on her way to achieving academic success.

As a child dyslexia made reading and spelling difficult. She struggled academically and was kicked out of school in seventh grade. She fought drug addiction, was homeless and, at age 20, went to jail.

“At that point I had to take a good look at my life and decide how I was going to live and what type of person I wanted to be,” Clingan said. “I made a decision to no longer walk down the path of destruction.”

She enrolled at Cypress College in 2007 and was named the Outstanding Graduate when she earned her associate's degree in 2010.

Now a CSULB psychology major graduating in May, Clingan is conducting research with the Center for Behavioral Research and Services (CBRS). Her presentation, “Sex Trading for Drugs in Long Beach, California,” won first place in the CSULB Student Research Competition this year, qualifying her to compete in the CSU Statewide competition being held on campus in May.

Clingan’s research aimed to identify predictors for trading sex for drugs so that public health workers will be able to recognize who trades sex for drugs and establish guidelines for education and prevention. More than 5,700 people were recruited for the study through CBRS programs, with 20 percent reporting that they had traded sex for drugs. She found that people who reported having used cocaine, heroin, speed balls or amphetamines were more likely to trade sex for drugs. It also indicated that people with HIV are more likely to trade sex for drugs and that buying sex with money was a significant predictor for trading sex for drugs.

In addition to conducting research in the community, Clingan was actively involved in a program she helped establish that mentored people while they were in jail and assisted them with housing, drug treatment and other needs when they were released.

After graduation, Clingan will pursue a Master of Arts in Psychological Research at CSULB. She ultimately plans to earn a Ph.D. in Psychology and pursue an academic career in psychological research.