

Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching – 2026
Citation for Professor Pushkala Prasad
Department of Management and Business

On behalf of the Faculty Development Committee, it is my pleasure to announce that this year's recipient of the Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching is Professor Pushkala Prasad of the Department of Management and Business.

Professor Prasad has distinguished herself at Skidmore through intellectual depth, interdisciplinary range, and a strong commitment to the central aims of liberal education. In her teaching, she challenges students, broadens their understanding, and creates space for thoughtful engagement with the most difficult questions of our time.

One clear example of that commitment was Professor Prasad's decision to offer an interdisciplinary course on the Israel-Palestine conflict after its resurgence in 2023. At a moment when emotions and tensions were especially high, and when nuanced discussion could easily have given way to silence or polarization, she stepped forward and created space in the curriculum for sustained, critical, and historically grounded inquiry. In doing so, she gave students the opportunity to engage seriously with one of the most difficult contemporary conflicts, even in the face of the criticism, challenge, and intimidation that such work could invite. That willingness to lead with integrity and courage speaks powerfully to her devotion to Skidmore's educational mission.

Colleagues who have observed Professor Prasad in the classroom speak with admiration about the high standards she sets for her students and the way they rise to that challenge. Her teaching has had a lasting impact not only on students, but also on colleagues, who have been inspired by the seriousness and ambition she brings to the classroom.

For her intellectual rigor, her pedagogical dynamism, and her remarkable courage in embodying the highest ideals of teaching, we are proud to honor Professor Pushkala Prasad with the 2026 Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching.