

## **Award for Blended and Online Learning**

The University of Calgary's *Eyes High* strategy inspires our university community to "enrich the quality and breadth of learning." Acknowledging that outstanding contributions to this vision can take many different forms, the University of Calgary Teaching Awards recognize excellence in diverse learning contexts, by individuals and teams, and through curriculum design and educational leadership. A University of Calgary Teaching Award is a distinguished honor for members of our university community who, through their commitment and expertise, create deep and lasting learning experiences.

### **1.0 Eligibility**

The University of Calgary Teaching Award for Blended and Online Learning recognizes the teaching excellence of an individual, academic staff member on Continuing, Contingent, Limited-Term or Sessional appointments who have developed and taught two or more different courses in blended or fully online environments, or integrated online learning environments as a significant element of two or more courses.

No individual may receive the University of Calgary Teaching Award in Blended and Online Learning more than once. The award may not be conferred each year, depending on whether qualifying nominations are received. There will be one award available annually.

### **2.0 Award Criteria**

Teaching excellence at the University of Calgary is exemplified by characteristics of scholarly teaching that cross teaching and learning contexts. The University of Calgary Teaching Award for Blended and Online Learning recognizes outstanding contributions to student learning in online contexts by individual, academic staff member on Continuing, Contingent, Limited-Term or Sessional appointments. Although there will be specific ways in which individual teachers demonstrate the qualities of scholarly teachers in facilitating learning in online environments, nominations will be assessed based on evidence of the nominee's demonstrated abilities to:

- Design online learning experiences that motivate students' interest and learning, and establish relevance of subject matter.
- Set clear goals and expectations for learning in online learning contexts, courses and individual learning activities.
- Design online learning experiences that actively engage students, and encourage collaboration.
- Challenge learners to develop their critical thinking and independent learning abilities through online learning experiences.
- Design student assessment strategies that enhance learning, and are appropriately aligned with intended learning.
- Design online learning strategies to facilitate feedback (e.g. instructor, self, and/or peer) on

students' learning to motivate and support progressive learning and growth.

- Exhibit respect for students, which includes showing interest in students' inquiries, interactions and ideas in online environments.
- Collect feedback, engage in professional learning activities, and reflect on teaching, in order to strengthen their teaching practices and improve student learning in online environments.

### **3.0 Nomination Package**

The nomination should be coordinated between the nominator(s) and the nominee. Nominations may be submitted by up to three nominators, who may include any combination of former students, faculty and/or instructor colleagues or academic administrators, and ideally across groups.

The nomination package should include:

- A brief nomination letter (2-page maximum) outlining how the nominee meets the award criteria. Contributed by an individual nominator, or co-written by nominators;
- A nomination dossier (10-page maximum, excluding letters of support); and
- A cover page verifying that the nominee meets all eligibility requirements and that all recommended nomination components have been included in the submission.

#### **3.1 Nomination Letter**

A nomination letter outlining how the nominee meets (or exceeds) the award criteria may be contributed by an individual nominator, or be co-written by 2-3 nominators. A well-crafted co-written nomination will in no way disadvantage a nominee. Nomination letters are not included in the dossier page count; the letter should be a maximum of two pages.

“Well-crafted” nomination letters address the award criteria and provide examples to support the claims made. Guidance on writing effective nomination letters is available through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning website.

#### **3.2 Nomination Dossier**

Teaching excellence is a multidimensional and complex task that required multiple sources of evidence that can be triangulated to produce a robust assessment. While the quality of evidence is a critical aspect of a strong nomination, so is the alignment across data sources. Support for creating a nomination package is available through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Your nomination dossier should be a **maximum of 10 pages** (excluding letters of support):

- **Teaching philosophy statement (1-page)**  
The teaching philosophy statement explains the rationale that guides your online teaching practice, and provides information about your context, approaches and contributions.

- **Descriptions of specific strategies**  
You should provide description of specific strategies you used in online learning environments that include why you used those strategies and some indication of impact on learning.
- **Summary of data from student feedback**  
A summary of data from student feedback and representative samples of student comments received across multiple learning contexts and years. It is recognized that these data may not be available or appropriate, depending upon the learning context (e.g. in small class sizes or in courses with sections taught by multiple instructors).
- **Reflective summary statement**  
A brief reflection and summary of information included in your dossier to put it in context, highlight how they connect to your teaching philosophy and practices, and identify future areas for growth (especially as it relates to teaching in online environments).
- **Letters of support**  
Two signed letters of support that complement and align with claims made in the nomination dossier, and provide further evidence of impact.

#### **4.0 Adjudication Process**

The selection process for each of the university-level teaching awards will be similar. Administrative processes surrounding communication, nomination and selection processes will be coordinated through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

A committee, chaired by the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning (or delegate) and consisting of two academic staff members, an undergraduate student, a graduate student, and a support (AUPE) staff, management or professional staff (MaPS) or postdoctoral scholar representative, will adjudicate the nomination files. The committee will be guided in its adjudication by an assessment rubric based on the criteria for the award.

#### **5.0 Recognition**

Recipients will be presented with their awards at a high-profile Celebration of Teaching event. Their successes will be celebrated in a lasting institutional record of teaching excellence on the Wall of Honour in the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Award recipients will be invited (but not required) to join the University of Calgary Teaching Academy, from which honorees can volunteer to share their expertise through mentoring, facilitating educational development activities, or implementing initiatives of their own design.