

UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Purpose:

The *University Excellence in Teaching Award* seeks to acknowledge Faculty Association Members who are exceptional teachers.

Definition:

Teaching excellence can be characterized by the following attributes. These examples are only meant as an illustrative guide, and not an exhaustive list. It is not expected that a nominee will exemplify all of these characteristics:

- ✓ Communicates and inspires passion for the subject matter.
- ✓ Mentors undergraduate and graduate students, fostering/nurturing excellence and the development of student self-esteem and self-confidence in their learning.
- ✓ Extends curricular boundaries by integrating current and emerging research.
- ✓ Creates an inclusive classroom environment that acknowledges and respects diverse student backgrounds, experiences and values, including groups such as Aboriginal students, part-time students, and those who are first in their families to attend post-secondary education.
- ✓ Demonstrates innovation and flexibility in accommodating students with disabilities through teaching and learning strategies that maintain academic integrity and demonstrate sound pedagogy.
- ✓ Encourages and supports students to achieve a deep understanding of a discipline or interdisciplinary field.
- ✓ Fosters the development of critical thinking and intellectual growth.
- ✓ Encourages and supports students to challenge assumptions about the subject matter and develop new insights.

Criteria for the Award:

To be eligible to be nominated to receive an award, nominees must:

1. must teach at UNBC, and
2. must be described by nominators as personifying excellence in teaching.

Nomination Process:

To nominate an eligible Member for an award, a complete nomination package must be prepared by the nominator and received by the Chair of the Committee by the deadline. The award is purposefully meant to be based on nominations by UNBC students.

Each nomination form submitted must be signed by the nominator and a minimum of two students, alumni, or members of the Faculty Association and should include a nomination letter.

The nomination letter should be a maximum of two pages in length and should outline the reasons for considering the nominee worthy of this award and why the nominators believe the teacher to be an exceptional teacher.

Completed nomination forms and letters of support (paper or electronic format) are to be submitted to the Centre of Teaching, Learning, and Technology, 3rd floor of the west wing of the Teaching and Learning Building (room 10-3042). Regional students may fax the documents directly to the Centre of Teaching, Learning, and Technology at 250-960-6755.

Upon receipt of the nomination packages, the Chair of the Committee will contact nominees to congratulate them on being nominated for an award and confirm with each nominee that he/she accepts the nomination. If the nominee accepts the nomination, the nominee will provide to the Chair of the Committee:

1. a cover letter (maximum of two pages) outlining evidence of excellence in teaching;
2. a standardized UNBC CV;
3. a teaching dossier, statement of teaching philosophy, and current-year student evaluations; and
4. a letter of support from the nominee's chair.

Recipients may be invited to serve on the adjudicating committee in the following year along with award recipient volunteers from the preceding year of the current competition.

Recipients of the Teaching Award are not eligible to be nominated again for a three-year period after receiving the award. Previous years' award winners are listed at:

<http://www.unbc.ca/centre-for-teaching-and-learning/excellence-in-teaching-award>

Award Committee:

The Excellence in Teaching Award Committee consists of the following individuals:

- a. the Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology who will chair the committee;
- b. three Tenured or Tenure-track Faculty, Continuing or Probationary SLIs, or Regular Term Members, two elected by each College and approved by the Deans of both Colleges;
- c. one past award holder appointed by the Provost;
- d. one student, selected in consultation with the NUGSS; and
- e. one student, selected in consultation with the GSS.

Confidentiality of the Nomination:

The names of the student nominators will be kept strictly confidential. Student nominators should not inform the teacher that they are submitting a nomination as the Chair of the Committee will contact the nominees directly.