



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

November - December 2014

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President's Message

by Doug Short



A good break with family and friends is deserved by all. It has been a hectic fall semester or two intakes for our trades' instructors. This year from what I have seen and heard from you at your institutions is that there is an increased level of stress, anxiety and conflict. Hopefully the spirit of the season will hearten us in our engagement with peers, student and administrators.

At the moment we appear to reside in "limbo", somewhere between or on the edge of something, but we know not what. There are re-organizations occurring, new administrators and managers being hired into new positions. In the post-secondary sector we appear to be poor second cousins to Health or K-12 and lumped in with "Innovation", suggesting ideas of growth, entrepreneurship or diversification to the government. However the connections are not well articulated. With the constantly changing seats in the government and the public service it is tough to get a sense of direction and we are left with a feeling of neglect at our institutions and across the system. It is unsettling.

Nevertheless we continue to move ahead. Good news comes from across the post-secondary sector as our faculty associations seem to be concluding their collective bargaining processes with settlements, although not what they should be, still they make us the envy of our colleagues in other provinces. ACIFA has had constructive meetings with the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, the Honourable Don Scott, and we expect to continue these meetings on a quarterly basis. Although early in the process we trust that we can add the faculty perspective to the decision-making processes in the ministry. ACIFA had good success being involved in the discussions that produced the outcomes and indicators for the post-secondary system. Of upcoming importance is having influence on the individual sector outcomes that are now in the works.

ACIFA has concerns about the impacts of outcomes based education, academic freedom in the classroom, codes of conduct that are overzealously applied and the increased administration that continues to impinge on our work. Of course the price of oil looms large in all our minds and we fear a repeat of 2013 in the upcoming budget. However post-secondary education made a significant sacrifice in 2013, we have had promises of restoring the funding lost during that period and we should be treated on at least equal footing with the other departments and initiatives of the government. Indeed if the post-secondary sector is perceived as contributing to innovation and towards diversification of our economy we might suggest it is important to maintain or expand the Province's commitment to our sector.

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In the meantime our faculty continues to do an amazing job in educating and training our students. We perform the true mission of post-secondary education in the shops, labs and classrooms across the province. Our impact on the economy and the lives of our students is tremendous.

Let me remind you of ACIFA's Annual Conference in late May when we celebrate and explore our scholarship in the art and science of teaching, while enjoying the company of our colleagues from across the province and the country.

Slainte!

ACIFA 2015 Annual Spring Conference

May 24 – May 26, 2015
at the Chateau Lake Louise

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON



**How does your ACIFA
membership benefit you?**



<http://acifa.ca/about/what-does-acifa-do/>



Call for Submissions

**Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
2015 Annual Spring Conference - May 24 to May 26, 2015**

Theme Strands:

- ☼ **Packs** – Preparing for Learning
- ☼ **Paddles** – Teaching Tools, Technology & Techniques
- ☼ **Portages** – Opportunity & Challenges for the Future of Post-Secondary in Alberta
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Hosted by the Portage College Faculty Association



Submission Deadline February 13, 2015

- **SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE APPLY EARLY.**
- You will be notified by mid-March about the status of your proposal.
- Sessions will be scheduled for Monday, May 25 and Tuesday, May 26

*The **Call for Submissions form** is available through your Faculty Association office and on the ACIFA website (<http://acifa.ca/call-for-submissions>)



2015 Award For Innovation in Teaching

The aim of the Award for Innovation in Teaching is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design which lead to improved student learning.

This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1,500 for the faculty member or team and \$500.00 for the faculty member's faculty association. Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to the two runners-up.

Eligibility

The Award is open to all ACIFA members. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An innovation which has already received this Award cannot be resubmitted the following year. Innovations which have been unsuccessful but have received a Certificate of Commendation are eligible for resubmission, within the context of the guidelines, the following year.

The Nomination Process

Each participating ACIFA member association will conduct a nomination and selection process at the local level, in accordance with the guidelines in this document, to select **up to two nominees** to be submitted to the ACIFA Awards Committee. The ACIFA Awards Committee, established by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the winner of the award from nominees put forward by each of the participating local faculty associations.

Selection Criteria

- The extent to which the innovation has had a practical outcome that improved teaching, learning, curriculum design, and/or assessment.
- Evidence of student satisfaction and learning outcomes.
- Evidence that the innovation was successfully integrated into the total learning process for the relevant course of study.
- The potential for the innovation to be applied to different fields of study
- The extent to which the innovation made effective and efficient use of resources.

Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices

Please provide information in the following format:

1. Innovator/project team details: name(s), position, and college/institute
2. A description of the innovation
3. The rationale for implementing the change
4. The outcomes of the innovation
5. The wider application of the innovation in post-secondary education
6. Names and signatures of two nominees
7. Any supporting documentation to be attached as appendices

Please submit application electronically via email.

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Judging Panels: provincial and local

Five members, elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner and up to two runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations. The local faculty association judging committees are to be selected and structured by the local faculty association as they deem appropriate for their association.

Mutual Obligations

The ACIFA Awards Committee will award the winner of an Innovation/Creativity Award in Teaching with:

- An announcement in the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1,500.00 made available to the winner and another \$500.00 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference
- Coverage of expenses for the winner to attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to receive their award.

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- Agree to submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the innovation and its successful implementation before the end of the year in which the Award was won.

Application Dates

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by the local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by **February 22, 2015**.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by the third week of April to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

*The 2015 award is sponsored and administered by
The Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association
Johnson Inc. Insurance
And
The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.*



Todd Nickle of Mount Royal University, Winner of the 2014 Award for Innovation in Teaching, poses with his award presented by Randy Pearson of Johnson Inc. Insurance. You can read more about Todd's innovation in the Jan-Feb Issue of Faculty Circuit!

AS A MEMBER YOU GET MORE. THEN YOU GET MORE.

ACIFA members enjoy discounts, personalized service and additional coverage. Plus, get a home or auto insurance quote for a chance to **win BIG** and **win MORE** – a new BMW 3 Series, **PLUS** a dream trip to the Bahamas, **PLUS** \$5,000 cash.*



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Upcoming ACIFA Dates

January 23, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
January 24, 2015	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Edmonton
March 20, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
March 21, 2015	Presidents' Council	Edmonton
May 9, 2015	Executive Council Budget	Edmonton
May 24, 2015	Presidents' Council	Chateau Lake Louise
May 26, 2015	Annual General Meeting	Chateau Lake Louise
May 24 – May 26, 2015	Spring Conference	Chateau Lake Louise

Join the Conversation!

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Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association
Bow Valley College Faculty Association
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association
Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association
Keyano College Faculty Association
Lakeland College Faculty Association
Lethbridge College Faculty Association
Medicine Hat College Faculty Association
Mount Royal University Faculty Association
NAIT Academic Staff Association
NorQuest College Faculty Association
Northern Lakes College Faculty Association
Olds College Faculty Association
Portage College Faculty Association
Faculty Association of Red Deer College
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

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