



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

# Faculty Circuit

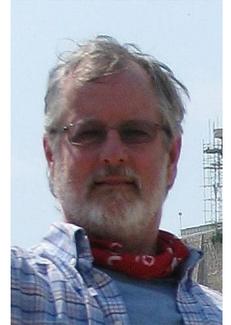
November - December 2015

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## President's Message

By: Doug Short



The best of the season to you, your family, and friends. It has been an eventful year and despite challenging economic times there is promise of exciting new beginnings.

Let me thank the ACIFA office staff (Pam, Kerri, Ben, Al and Terry) for their terrific work throughout the year. What wonders! ACIFA is blessed to have the best labour relations director, Terry Sway, in the country. He is the glue of ACIFA! And we have such dedicated staff committed to our mission.

This year our annual conference was a roaring success with record participants, including friends from across the country. The upcoming conference celebrating teaching and learning is just around the corner.

ACIFA is blessed with a great Executive, I call upon for ongoing guidance, hard-working committees and a diligent President's Council serving the interests of their constituents and the post-secondary system in Alberta. Their persistence and dedication serves us all well.

As we look forward to a promising year we will be engaging the government on:

**Amendments to the PSLA:** Our discussions to date have indicated a desire to remain under the Act, as it provides an environment of collegial governance (to varying degrees) and dispute resolution processes that allow us to settle our differences in our collective interests. We will see the fundamental right of strike/lockout reinstated as a possible dispute resolution process within the Act or by reference to other statutes.

**Designation:** Our PSLA Round Table discussions highlighted the polar opposite views between academic staff and management (purported to express the views of the Board of Governors (BOGs)) on the question of who determines who is in and who is not in our academic staff associations. Designation should be a consultative, collaborative process with the ability to take the question through a dispute resolution process. It should not be the unilateral prerogative of the BOGs. ACIFA will press this issue with the government early in the New Year.

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**BOGs:** Our other priority with the government is to establish a broader, more diverse representation on the BOGs of our institutions. We believe that the BOGs have become too corporatized. ACIFA will press this issue with the government as well.

ACIFA will continue to develop and enhance our relationships with the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), Public Interest Alberta (PIA), the student groups and our friends in other provinces. We will continue to meet with public servants in the Ministry of Advanced Education, especially as the review of Campus Alberta begins. A meeting is scheduled with Minister Lori Sigurdson for January 18<sup>th</sup> and we welcome any of your thoughts or considerations.

Enjoy your holiday break. You deserve it. I know the magnificent effort you all make towards quality post-secondary education in this province.  
Slainte!

## ACIFA 2016 Annual Spring Conference

May 15 – May 17, 2016  
at The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

**REGISTRATION OPENING SOON**



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membership benefit you?**



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



## Call for Submissions

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Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association  
2016 Annual Spring Conference - May 15 to May 17, 2016

### Theme Strands:

- ☼ Treasure the Past/Embrace the Present/Shape the Future
- ☼ Revitalize the Core Energies of Teaching and Learning
- ☼ Rediscovering the Heart of the Profession

*Hosted by the Bow Valley College Faculty Association*



**Submission Deadline February 12, 2016**

- **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 16 and Tuesday, May 17

\*The **Call for Submissions form** is a live online submission form. Visit [www.acifa.ca](http://www.acifa.ca) and click the ACIFA Conference tab or submit by clicking the following link: [Online Submission Form 2016](#)



## 2016 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, 2016**.

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 2016 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.*



Martin Jones of Keyano College, Winner of the 2015 Award for Innovation in Teaching, poses with his award presented by Randy Pearson of Johnson Inc. Insurance. You can read more about Martin's innovation in the Jan-Feb Issue of Faculty Circuit.

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## Upcoming ACIFA Dates

January 15, 2016	Executive Council	Calgary
January 16, 2016	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Calgary
March 11, 2016	Executive Council	Calgary
March 12, 2016	Presidents' Council	Calgary
May 7, 2016	Executive Council Budget	Edmonton
May 15, 2016	Presidents' Council	Jasper Park Lodge
May 17, 2016	Annual General Meeting	Jasper Park Lodge
May 15 – May 17, 2016	Spring Conference	Jasper Park Lodge

### Join the Conversation!

**FACEBOOK :** <http://www.facebook.com/ACIFAcA>

**TWITTER:** <http://www.twitter.com/ACIFAcA>

## 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  
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.

Please address all inquiries and submissions to:  
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