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President's Message

By: Anna Beukes

It has been a busy semester dominated by consultations around changes to the post-secondary learning act (PSLA). In the middle of August, the AB government released a discussion document that set in motion two months of extensive consultation, culminating in ACIFA's submission on behalf of our members and a roundtable consultation on November 21, 2016 at Government House in Edmonton. Each ACIFA Faculty Association (FA) had two representatives at that round table meeting (or in the case of MacEwan University at a subsequent meeting).

This roundtable, like the one a year ago, was chaired by Andy Sims the well-known and highly regarded arbitrator. Mr. Sims started with a few opening comments addressing the question: Why are we at that roundtable meeting? He stated that considerations went well beyond the Saskatchewan court case – that will introduce the right to strike/lockout

into our post-secondary sector. "There are some..." he explained, "...who believe the arbitration model has become too expensive in terms of the settlements awarded and too restrictive. Some view the strike/lockout model as an appropriate way to allocate social resources during times of scarcity..." These words created the impression (hopefully wrong) that we might be entering a stage where hardball tactics will be employed to put downward pressure on our wage settlements.

What was very evident at the roundtable was the strong agreement (very close to full consensus) between us and our employers about the preference to stay under the PSLA and the retention of statutory rights for FA's. Statutory right recognizes FAs as an integral part of the culture of post-secondary institutions in Alberta. Despite this level of agreement between employers and employees it remains to be seen if the government will honour it.

The Alberta government is in consultation overdrive at the moment. In addition to the PSLA consultation, our input was sought on the tuition freeze announced by the government this fall. [ACIFA prepared and submitted a document](#) setting out the overarching principles which we recommend be considered. We were also invited to participate in a pre-budget consultation. I posted [notes of what was said at this pre-budget meeting](#) on our website. Just this week another consultation was announced on the funding model for the adult learning sector. Feedback is required by late January 2017. We are grateful to be asked for our input and remain cautiously optimistic that our input will be taken seriously and influence the decisions that are made.

We have not been given the final date when the new legislation governing our sector will be tabled in the legislature. We were told to expect it this upcoming spring – which can be anywhere between Valentine's day and Father's day.



Regardless of when the new legislation is tabled or what it looks like – whether we stay under the PSLA or move to the labour code – we will have the right to strike or be locked out. For the first time in a decade and a half we have this right again. With every right comes a responsibility and a potential threat. Getting ready for that responsibility and threat will likely keep us busy in the New Year.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of each and every member of our ACIFA executive. Thank you for your selfless service to this organization and to the cause of advancing high quality, affordable post-secondary education to all Albertans. I enjoy working with every one of you and I look forward to continue doing so in the coming year. Also, I want to remember the hard and dedicated work of our office staff and our Director of Labour Relations, Terry Sway.

Terry was recognized by [CAUT](#) this fall for “outstanding achievements in the promotion of collective bargaining” by receiving the prestigious Donald Savage award. Congratulations Terry on this well-deserved recognition for a lifetime of service to ACIFA and the broader PSE system in Alberta. Finally, remember to check out our updated ACIFA [website](#) and let us know what you think.

In conclusion, I want to wish you and your families a relaxing and peaceful holiday break. I have every reason to believe 2017 will be (even) more eventful than 2016. That being said, we are ready for it!

Seasons greeting,

Anna Beukes, PhD

President ACIFA

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

?

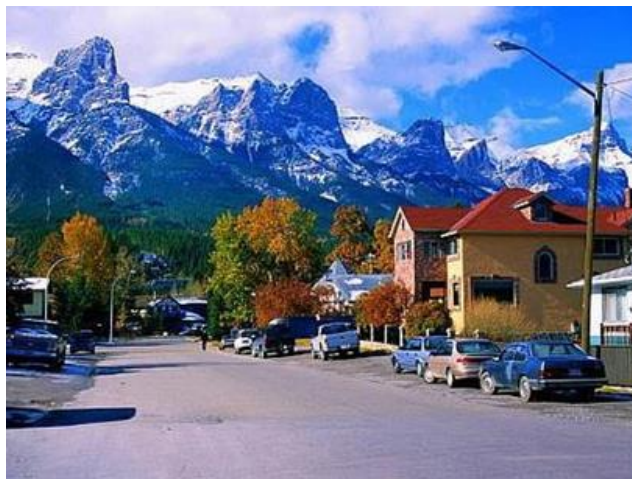
<http://www.acifaweb.com/what-we-do>

ACIFA 2017 Annual Spring Conference

May 28-30, 2017

at The Coast Canmore Hotel & Conference Centre
In Canmore, Alberta

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!



Canmore photo courtesy of: <http://www.canadianrealestatemagazine.ca/files/image/CRE/Canmore.jpg>



Call for Submissions

**Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
2017 Annual Spring Conference - May 28 to May 30, 2017**

Theme Strands:

 **Teaching**

 **Learning**

 **Wellness**

Hosted by the Olds College Faculty Association



Submission Deadline January 31, 2017

- **SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE APPLY EARLY.**
- You will be notified by the end of February about the status of your proposal.
- Sessions will be scheduled for Monday, May 29 and Tuesday, May 30

*The **Call for Submissions form** is a live online submission form. You may submit via this form by clicking the following link: [Call for Submissions 2017](#)

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award 2017

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) refers to taking a systematic look at a teaching and learning practice and recording what was done, why it was done, collecting data, analyzing the data and reflecting on how the results might influence future teaching endeavors. If done carefully and thoughtfully, this type of research can improve an individual's teaching and provide guidance for improvement for others.

Research has the potential to generate genuine and sustained improvements in our colleges and institutes. It gives educators new opportunities to reflect on and assess their teaching; to explore and test new ideas, methods, and materials; to assess how effective the new approaches were; to share feedback with colleagues; and to make decisions about which new approaches to include in their curriculum, instruction, and assessment plans.

The Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA) through The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Trust Fund will award one grant of \$1,000.00 annually for research projects related to improving teaching and learning conducted by members of ACIFA. The award is intended to assist with materials and/or study costs associated with the research project.

Eligibility

This award is open to all members of the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA). All applications must include appropriate institutional consent to conduct the research.

The research project may span part or all of the 2016/2017 academic year but must not exceed that time limit.

Applications must be received by the ACIFA Office by **February 3, 2017**. Please submit applications electronically.

Selection and Mutual Obligations

Applications will be judged by a sub-committee of the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA. The Award winner will be notified by **March 10, 2017**.

- Award recipients are required to present their project at the annual ACIFA conference following the completion of their research project. ACIFA will fund the winner's conference registration, accommodations, and travel expenses.
- Award recipients are required to write a summary article for the ACIFA newsletter.
- There will also be an announcement on the ACIFA website.
- The top three submissions' abstracts will be posted on the ACIFA website.

Proposal for Research Guidelines

The guidelines for this proposal are listed below:

1. Name address, phone number and e-mail address of researcher(s). If more than one researcher please identify lead researcher.
2. Name of college or institute you are a member of.
3. Designated teaching assignment and employment category.
4. Title of research project.

5. Purpose of research project. A brief statement explaining the question that will be answered by your study – what is it you want to find out? What brought this question to your attention?
6. Materials to be used in the study (instructional materials, assessments, other materials).
7. Data collection – describe the type(s) of data you will gather and your collection plan. It would be useful to include a step by step plan of what will be done.
8. Explain the process you will use to analyze and evaluate the data.
9. Describe how you plan to use and/or implement the findings of your study.
10. Describe your plan for sharing the results with the educational community beyond the requirements of the award.
11. Anticipated starting and completion dates of the research project.
12. Provide an abstract for purposes of publication on the ACIFA website. The top three applicant's abstracts will be posted on the ACIFA website.
13. A letter from the researcher's institution granting permission to do the research. Other supporting letters as the researcher deems necessary may also be attached.

Send an electronic copy of your **Proposal for Research** to: pam.anderson@acifa.ca

If you have questions please contact the ACIFA Office 1-780-423-4440

Application Dates

Submissions due Feb 3, 2017

Award announced by March 10, 2017

Innovation in Teaching Award 2017

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

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 for five years. Innovations which have been unsuccessful 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. 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 nominators
7. Any supporting documentation to be attached as appendices

Please submit application electronically to the ACIFA Office.

Judging Panels: provincial and local

Five members, selected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner 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 undertake to award the winner of an Innovation 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 Annual ACIFA Conference to receive their award.
- Announcement on the ACIFA website

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- 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.
- Present their winning submission in a session at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

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 **Feb 3, 2017** at midnight.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by **March 10, 2017** to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

*The 2017 award is sponsored and administered by
The Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes Faculties Association
Johnson Inc. Insurance
and
The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.*

Distinguished Instructor Award 2017

The aim of the Distinguished Instructor Award is to recognize teachers who exhibit commitment to teaching, learners and learning through a variety of measures. This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1500 for the faculty member or team and \$500 for the faculty member's faculty association.

Eligibility

The Award is open to all ACIFA members who instruct at least one course. The instructor may be someone who instructs learners in any learning platform. A learner is considered any individual who is enrolled in a credit or non-credit course at an ACIFA institution. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the nominee(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An instructor who wins the award is not eligible for the award for 5 years following the winning of the award. An instructor who has been nominated, but has not won the award, is immediately eligible for the award for the following year.

The Nomination Process

Upon determining that a faculty member is a qualified candidate for this award, a nominator or nominators will prepare a two to three page document expressing the nominee's skills and qualities that make them a distinguished instructor. 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

Instructional Qualities. An instructor may qualify for the Distinguished Instructor Award if they demonstrate commitment to learners and learning through a variety of measures including:

- Responds to the individual needs of learners in and out of the classroom by addressing questions in a respectful and timely manner and by respecting the diverse talents and ways of learning.
- Promotes a quality, respectful and positive learning environment by encouraging cooperation among students, and by giving prompt feedback
- Demonstrates innovative teaching and learning strategies, including communicating high expectations and encouraging active learning.
- Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of subject matter and strives to keep current in their field of expertise.
- Explores professional development opportunities with interest and enthusiasm.
- Models professional attitudes and values.

Other Qualities. A nominee may possess other qualities that the judging panel may consider in determining the winner include:

- Cooperative spirit • Positive personality • Professional approach
- Reliable • Open to new challenges

Supporting Documentation. Nominations **may** be supported with a collection of resources to showcase the skills and attributes of the nominee:

- Letter of support from colleague(s) (to a maximum of two)
- Letter of support from immediate supervisor
- Professional biography
- Student testimonial(s) (to a maximum of three) (Note that students need not be currently enrolled in the nominee's course(s))
- Curriculum Vitae

- Performance Evaluation
- Video of Nominee teaching
- Equivalent Documents

Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices

Please provide information on the nomination form that includes:

1. Name, position, and place of work of nominee
2. A description of the nominee's instructional qualities (as described in the selection criteria)
3. A description of other qualities (as described in the selection criteria)
4. Name, position and contact information of nominator
5. Any supporting documentation (as described above)

Please submit application electronically via email.

Provincial Judging Panel

Five members, selected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner from the list of nominees.

Mutual Obligations

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

- An announcement in the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1500 for the winner and another \$500 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference
- An announcement on the ACIFA website.

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award. ACIFA will cover the conference registration, accommodations, and travel expenses for the winner.
- Submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the commitment they have made to learners and learning.

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 3, 2017** at midnight.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by **March 10, 2017** to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

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2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award Winners

Questing: Taking Your Class to the Next Level

By: Dr. Cheryl Pollard, Lisa McKendrick-Calder, Catherine Bowman, & Tanya Heuver
Grant MacEwan University



"As students progress in a baccalaureate nursing program they are challenged to access prior knowledge in order to apply and integrate it in new and more complex contexts and situations. Students often struggle with recalling this information and class time is spent refreshing prior knowledge. Using class time to review pre-requisite material may not be the most effective use means of developing clinical judgement abilities. The goal of the research was to determine if using the strategy of gamification is an effective means to support student learning and facilitate the continuing development of their clinical judgement abilities. Gamification is an emerging teaching strategy that has demonstrated the potential to enhance student engagement and motivation. Research suggests that when gamification is used, students complete more of the preparatory class activities. Our research project compares traditional lecture/case study classes with gamified information/case study/simulation classes to determine if student clinical judgement skills are affected by the means of how preparatory information is provided."

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

January 27, 2017	Executive Council	Edmonton
January 28, 2017	Negotiations Advisory Committee & Professional Affairs Committee	Edmonton
March 17, 2017	Executive Council	Edmonton
March 18, 2017	Presidents' Council	Edmonton
May 13, 2017	Executive Council Budget	Edmonton
May 28, 2017	Presidents' Council	Canmore
May 30, 2017	Annual General Meeting	Canmore
TBD	Negotiations Advisory Committee & Professional Affairs Committee	Canmore
May 28-30, 2017	Spring Conference	Canmore

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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