Innovation in Teaching Award Nomination Call

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 nominee(s) and must follow the format of the nomination form.

Once an instructor has received the award, they are not eligible for reconsideration for five years. An instructor who has been nominated but has not received the award remains eligible, and the nomination may be resubmitted the following year.

Nomination Process

Once the nominator(s) determines that a faculty member meets the eligibility criteria, they are required to complete the nomination form, describing the nominee's skills and qualities that reflect distinguished instructional practice. Nomination forms are available on the ACIFA website (www.acifa.ca).

Award Criteria

- Practical impact on:
    - teaching,
    - learning,
    - curriculum design, and
    - assessment.
- Integration with course or program learning outcomes,
- Transferability to other fields, programs, or institutional contexts,
- Effective and efficient use of resources, if applicable, and education theory.

Nomination Form

The following will be necessary to complete in the nomination form:

1. Innovator/project team details: name(s), email(s), and college/institute.
2. A description of the innovation
    a. What were students asked to do? How? In what contexts?
    b. What resources were needed to implement this innovation and realize its goals?

3. The rationale for implementing the change
    a. What was the identified need for this innovation and what conditions prompted its implementation?
    b. What are the identified constraints or affordances for this innovation?
4. The outcomes of the innovation
    a. What learning outcomes were met?
    b. What teaching, learning, course or curriculum design, assessment, delivery mode, or technology goals were met and what obstacles or challenges, if any, overcome?
    c. To what degree are the effective and efficient use of time, funding, or people resources necessary for the innovation's success?
    d. What evidence of measurable impact shows this innovation has lasting effects on teaching and learning? Upload up to 5 documents (max 100MB each) below, examples may include (but not limited to): student or colleague testimonials, student evaluations, surveys, pre- and post-tests, narrative accounts, visual representations, or statistical analysis.

       If you experience difficulties uploading any of these documents or have questions about whether other examples may count toward this, please reach out the ACIFA Office at admin@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440.

Recipient Selection Process

ACIFA's Professional Affairs Committee will select the award recipient from nominations received.

The committee uses an established rubric to adjudicate all nominations to ensure consistency, fairness, and alignment with the award criteria. The rubric is available on the ACIFA website (www.acifa.ca).

Where possible, efforts will be made to avoid assigning committee members to adjudicate nominations from their own institution to prevent perceived or actual conflicts of interest. To protect fairness and impartiality of the review process, committee members are responsible for recusing themselves from the process if a perceived or actual conflict of interest exists. If a committee member recuses themselves, the remaining members will continue to make the final selection, with the input of the Professional Affairs Committee Chair, if required.

ACIFA Commitments to Award Recipient

The ACIFA Awards Committee will undertake to recognize the recipient of the Innovation in Teaching Award with:

- Acknowledgement in the ACIFA Newsletter, website, social media, and conference program,
- $1,500 for the recipient and $500 to the recipient's faculty association, provided by belairdirect,
- Coverage of conference registration, accommodation, and travel expenses for the recipient to deliver a formal presentation at the ACIFA Conference and to receive the award.

Award Recipient Expectations

The award recipient will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the award and present a conference session;
- Submit a description of their commitment to learners and learning for publication across ACIFA communication channels, including the newsletter, website, social media, and conference program; and
- Provide a professional headshot and a brief biography for use in ACIFA communications and the conference program.

Application Forms are available at: www.acifa.ca

Electronic submission of application is required.

Application Deadline: January 3, 2027
Recipient Notified: February 5, 2027

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the ACIFA office at
780-423-4440 or admin@acifa.ca

Administered by the
Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association
Professional Affairs Committee

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