Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award
Call for Applications

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Award involves the systematic study of teaching and learning practices. SoTL projects may use qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, reflective, or practice-based approaches. Projects may involve collecting and analyzing data, developing or assessing teaching methods, or examining how teaching practices affect students, educators, curriculum, instruction, or assessment.

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.

Belairdirect will award one $1,500 award annually to support a research project related to improving teaching and learning conducted by members of ACIFA and $500 to the researcher(s)' association. 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).

Applicants for this award must self-nominated since they must commit to doing the research.

The research project may be proposed or in progress during the current academic year, but it must be completed within two years.

Application Process

The lead applicant will complete the SoTL application form available on the ACIFA website (www.acifa.ca). Researchers apply on their own behalf.

Application Form

The following information must be included as part of the proposal:

1. Name, e-mail address, post secondary institution of researcher(s). For lead applicant the Designated Teaching Assignment and Employment Category is also required. If there is 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. A description of the plan to share the results with the educational community beyond the requirement of the award.
6. A copy of the research proposal, including the following components:
    - Title of project
    - Purpose

- Materials and/or theories to be used in the study
- Methodology and/or data collection plan
- Process used to analyze and evaluate data and/or develop methodology
- Project timeline with start and end date

7. Copy of approval from ethics board OR lead applicant's institution
    - You can include any alternative media file (1 file, max 100MB) relevant to your proposal

If you experience any difficulties, please reach out to the ACIFA Office at admin@acifa.ca .

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 Commitment to Award Recipient

The ACIFA Awards Committee will undertake to recognize the recipient of 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; and
- Coverage of conference registration, accommodations, and travel expenses for the recipient to present their scholarship and receive their award at the ACIFA conference.

Award Recipient Expectations

The award recipient will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to present their scholarship and receive the research award at the ACIFA conference;
- Submit for publication across ACIFA communication channels, including newsletters, website, social media, and conference program a description of the project and any work completed so far;
- Two years after receiving the award, the recipient will provide a report on what the research produced and where possible provide copies of any publications or further news coverage; 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

acifa
Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

Sponsored by belairdirect

belairdirect.
car and home insurance