

Every year, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) recognizes up to three people who represent the best qualities of faculty and the [values of TRU](#), both in and out of the classroom. Nominees for the Faculty Excellence Award may be full-time, part-time, or sessional faculty members of TRU.

Nominees should be recognized by students and colleagues as exemplary members of faculty, both in and out of the classroom, who demonstrate such values as equity, inclusion and diversity, community-mindedness, curiosity, and sustainability.

Award winners will receive an engraved plaque plus a monetary award of up to \$2000 to attend a conference or professional development activity related to teaching and learning.¹

Nomination Process

The award nomination process now has two Stages:

Stage 1: Members of the campus community are invited to nominate faculty members who demonstrate a commitment to instruction/ instructional support and educational leadership. Nominators are asked describe the faculty members' impact on students, innovation, and campus leadership. Anyone is permitted to nominate a faculty member, and nomination forms will be accepted if they are complete.

Stage 2: Faculty members who meet the eligibility criteria will be asked if they would like to accept the nomination and submit a full award portfolio. Supporting documentation (detailed below) must be submitted before the deadline. Faculty who are not nominated in Stage 1 are still encouraged to self-nominate and are welcome to submit portfolios.

Eligibility

Full-time, part-time, and sessional faculty members are eligible to receive the Faculty Excellence Award. Nominees must have been employed at TRU for at least five continuous² years. Past recipients of a Faculty Excellence Award are eligible for one additional future award. Previous winners become eligible to receive a second award five years after receiving their first award.

¹ Winners are encouraged to share this learning experience at the Teaching Practices Colloquium or other appropriate event.

² Continuous employment includes employer-approved leaves as per BC bylaws

Criteria

I. Engagement and Motivation

The faculty member demonstrates (as applicable to the specific professional role):

- enthusiasm for student and colleague learning;
- mentorship and opportunities for growth for all learners;
- opportunities for student learning to happen beyond the classroom/laboratory;
- the ability to motivate students and/or colleagues to achieve, maintain, and feel a sense of accomplishment around standards of excellence;
- sensitivity, respect, and responsiveness to individuals from diverse backgrounds and life-experiences; and
- equitable, responsive, and realistic assessments.

II. Pedagogy

The faculty member demonstrates:

- enthusiasm for the subject matter, for teaching it, and for others' learning it;
- a repertoire of inclusive, inspiring, innovative, and effective instructional strategies;
- integration of research into teaching or practice via their own research or that of others;
- an exceptional command of teaching and learning theory and practice;
- a commitment to the advancement of their discipline or program through contribution to pedagogy or through course and program development; and
- a record of extending the impact of their teaching and/or practice to the TRU community and/or beyond.

III. Reflective/ Reflexive Practice and/or Scholarly Teaching

- The faculty member demonstrates:
- skilled scholarly teaching or reflective practice through acknowledging that teachers are also learners;
- solicitation of feedback on their teaching or professional practice from learners and peers (e.g. peer review);
- curiosity toward the theory and practice of teaching in their discipline;
- a record of cultivating opportunities for learners to engage in creative inquiry and critical thinking; and
- a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Application Process

Faculty who have been nominated and meet the criteria for the award will be invited to submit the following documentation in support of their nomination through the secure SharePoint portal. The total package should not exceed 20 pages in total.

1. A brief Curriculum Vitae or resume (2-3 pages maximum)
2. At least 5 signed statements of support for the nomination, detailing the impact the work of the faculty member has had.
3. Philosophy of teaching or instructional support statement (500 words maximum);
4. Critical reflection statement (500 words maximum);
5. Sample supporting evidence demonstrating innovative teaching, learning or professional practice. Nominees may wish to include items such as course or workshop outlines, peer evaluations, student work (with student permission), impactful projects, letters of thanks or appreciation, images of installations, or news reports.

Please submit the completed package by uploading it through the CELT Awards page prior to the application deadline.

Evaluation

The nominees will be evaluated based on the criteria above and the package submitted. The evaluation committee will be composed of faculty members who volunteer to serve on the Merit Awards Subcommittee of the Teaching and Learning Committee of Senate. Should a member of the sub-committee have a real or perceived conflict of interest with a nominee, another person will be asked to stand in.