President’s Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning

2014 Call for Nominations

Description of the Award

Our purpose at McMaster University is the discovery, communication and preservation of knowledge. In our teaching, research, and scholarship, we are committed to creativity, innovation and excellence. The President’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning demonstrates the value McMaster attaches to its educational function and recognizes those who, through innovation and commitment, have significantly enhanced the quality of their students’ learning experience.

Each President’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning recognizes the contributions of an individual to education through innovation, continued excellence in teaching, and enhanced student learning. It is an award that recognizes achievement over time and accordingly more weight will be given to evidence of continuing effort and outstanding contributions over a period of years.

Outstanding contributions to teaching and learning may be demonstrated by evidence of the intellectual growth of students and enhanced student learning that results from innovative teaching in the classroom, the mentorship of students through involvement in research or practical experience, the development of novel and effective educational materials, or leadership that promotes teaching and learning at McMaster.

The President’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning consists of:

- a citation of excellence and memento to be presented at the Spring Convocation;
- an honorarium in the amount of $5,000;
- an inscription of the recipient’s name on a permanent plaque bearing the names of all previous recipients; and
- membership in McMaster’s community of award-winning educators.

Up to three awards may be made each year.

Eligibility

All full-time and part-time faculty and staff (including those who are on contract) who contribute to teaching and learning at McMaster are eligible. A previous recipient remains eligible, but only on the basis of work completed since the previous award.
The Nomination Process

1. A 1-2 page nomination brief is completed by a nominator who can attest to the nominee’s quality of teaching and impact on student learning. Nominations can be submitted by members of faculty (including Chairs and Deans), students or staff.

2. Nominators complete and submit the nomination brief by January 15.

3. The selection committee will review the nomination briefs to assess the eligibility and quality of the nomination.

4. By the end of January, selected nominees will be contacted by the committee and encouraged to develop and submit a nomination portfolio by March 14. Electronic portfolios, submitted to cll@mcmaster.ca, are encouraged.

The Nomination Brief

A nomination brief (available at: [http://cll.mcmaster.ca/awards_and_grants/president_award.html](http://cll.mcmaster.ca/awards_and_grants/president_award.html)) is completed by a nominator who can attest to the nominee’s excellence in teaching and the impact that the nominee has on student learning. Nominators should discuss the nominee’s particularly innovative teaching, mentoring, educational leadership, or development of innovative teaching materials, and highlight compelling evidence that demonstrates sustained impact on and enhancement of the student learning experience. Clear connections to McMaster’s values and current priorities would strengthen a nomination.

Nominators should complete the Nomination Brief and submit the completed form to cll@mcmaster.ca no later than 4 pm on January 15, 2014.

The Nomination Portfolio

The nomination portfolio is largely constructed by the nominee to showcase the best possible evidence for outstanding contributions to teaching and learning, but support from the nominator and the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning is highly encouraged.

Nomination portfolios are expected to be approximately 30 pages, but must not exceed 35 numbered pages, including appendices and graphics.

Similar to McMaster’s Teaching Portfolio requirements (see SPS-B2), the following elements should be included in the Nomination Portfolio:

- A statement of teaching approach or philosophy.
- A description of innovative teaching, mentoring, leadership practice, or development of educational materials, including examples of how the approach/philosophy has been realized.
- Evidence that demonstrates the sustained impact or value-added that results from the nominee’s teaching innovations. Mentorship of student learning through involvement in research or practical experience at the institutional, local, or global levels may be included. Evidence of impact in the areas
of student experience, community engagement, undergraduate research, and/or international education would strengthen an application.

- Letters of support from students, colleagues, department chairs, directors, and deans often provide additional credence to a nomination.

Nomination portfolios must be submitted no later than 4 pm on March 14, 2014. The selection committee prefers to receive electronic portfolios. These should be submitted to cll@mcmaster.ca. Hard copies will also be accepted; to a nominee submitting in paper format, we require 10 copies to be delivered to the attention of Dr. Patrick Deane, Office of the President, Gilmour Hall.

**The Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee is approved by the President and will normally include the following:

- Chair: Appointed by the President
- Two faculty members, external to McMaster
- One previous President’s Award recipient
- One representative of the McMaster Students Union
- One representative of the McMaster Graduate Students Association
- One representative of the McMaster Alumni Association
- One staff representative
- A consultant from the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (non-voting member).

**Available Support**

The McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning has a range of sample portfolios and other documents that are helpful in the preparation of a portfolio. The nomination materials of previous winners of the President’s Awards are also available at the Centre. Staff at the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning are available to assist nominees in developing a nomination portfolio. To book a consultation, please contact Lori Goff (lgoff@mcmaster.ca, ext. 24368).