

Annual TUC Teaching Awards: Outstanding Teaching Award and Innovative Teaching Awards

The Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) and the Touro University California Provost's Office recognize faculty who are engaged in outstanding teaching and in innovative teaching. The Outstanding Teaching Award is a \$1000 award. The three (3) Innovative Teaching Awards are one (1) \$500 award for course or curricular level innovation and two (2) \$250 awards for assignment level innovation. Each award winner will also receive a commemorative plaque. In any given year a faculty member may only be nominated for one award.

TUC Annual Outstanding Teaching Award

The Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) and the Provost's Office would like to recognize faculty who are engaged in outstanding teaching. This award acknowledges strong commitment to teaching and student success; excellence in teaching practices that reflect the highest standards of pedagogy; a record of outstanding teaching effectiveness within and outside the classroom; effective course design or program development; and the ability to inspire, promote, and sustain students' intellectual growth emphasizing independent inquiry and critical thinking.

This is a **\$1000** cash reward with a commemorative plaque.

Nominees for the Excellence in Teaching Award will have demonstrated a record of excellence in teaching that inspires others. The nomination and supporting letters should offer examples of excellence that may include the following:

1. The faculty member promotes active learning and successfully encourages students to think imaginatively, critically, and independently;
2. The faculty member helps students appreciate the relationship between the subject and its place in its broadest context;
3. The faculty member uses innovative and varied pedagogical techniques;
4. The faculty member interacts enthusiastically and effectively with students beyond the classroom, using office hours, special projects, and research activities to promote learning and address individual student needs;
5. The faculty member mentors students through special projects, research activities, publishing of student work, and outside learning opportunities.

Eligibility

Any TUC employee who has a faculty appointment is eligible to be nominated for the award. Provost and Deans with faculty rank *are ineligible for faculty awards*. (Associate and Assistant Deans are eligible).

How to Apply

Applicants should combine the following elements into a single PDF and submit the file no later than **3PM on Friday, April 23rd, 2021**. Applications should be emailed to: jim.oconnor@tu.edu

Nominations packets should include:

- A completed Cover Sheet;
- A 3-5 page summary statement by the nominee highlighting their excellence in teaching in relation to the award criteria.

- A condensed curriculum vitae (2-3 pages);
- A support letter from the nominee's academic home chair;
- A maximum of three letters in support of the nomination, in addition to the chair's letter;
- Multiple measures of teaching excellence;
- Any other appendix materials useful to build the case;
- All materials must be compiled into a single pdf document;
- The packet must not exceed 20 pages. The Cover Sheet does not count toward the 20-page limit.

Supporting documentation to be submitted must include:

- Letter(s) of support from current or former students and/or college alumni;
- Letter(s) of support from a dean and/or department chair regarding the faculty member's teaching abilities and effectiveness.

Other supporting documentation that may be included:

- Material demonstrating the faculty member's major and/or unique addition to the field of pedagogy;
- Summaries of course evaluations
- Letter(s) of support from a peer.

Selection Process

A faculty committee consisting of a faculty member from each college (appointed by the college dean), and the Director of the Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) will review applications. Since members serving on this committee may not be experts in the nominee's field, *it is important that nominations be submitted in language understandable to faculty in other disciplines.* A rubric will be used by the selection committee, which reflects the following selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

Applications for this award will be evaluated along these dimensions.

1. Applicants should be able to demonstrate significant **student learning** in their courses. Although indirect evidence in the form of self-report will not be discounted, greater weight will be given to direct evidence.
2. Applicants should be able to demonstrate significant **reflection** on teaching, learning, and the relationship between the two. Successful applications will display curiosity about student learning, an eagerness to experiment, and a willingness to adapt in light of what is learned.
3. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that their teaching is **evidence-informed**. Evidence-informed teachers are aware of the research on teaching and learning, collect their own evidence on student learning in their classrooms, and implement strategies that are consistent with both.
4. Applicants should demonstrate that they are strongly committed to teaching and learning. This commitment might be demonstrated through activities designed to advance the quality and practice of teaching and learning, to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and/or global and multicultural understanding;
5. Applicants should demonstrate the use of effective teaching strategies to enhance student learning, including, but not limited to innovative uses of technology, active learning, High-Impact Practices, and assessment;
6. Applicants should demonstrate strong commitment to fostering the academic success of students through interaction with students outside of the classroom (e.g., advising, mentoring, recruiting, etc.).

The following are non-ranked examples of accomplishments that may be included as evidence.

- Evidence of consistent excellent teaching;
- Student success and/or accomplishments;

- Advising and/or mentoring of students (e.g., internships, directed studies, study abroad);
- Mentoring of other faculty;
- Evidence of reflective teaching;
- Intellectually rigorous, creative, and engaging pedagogy;
- Teaching workshops, invited talks, or presentations;
- External awards and recognitions by local, national, and international organizations for teaching excellence;
- Sustained contributions to curriculum development, and/or innovative instructional techniques and technologies.
- Summaries of course evaluations
- Advising and/or mentoring of students (e.g., internships, directed studies, study abroad);
- Mentoring of other faculty;
- Evidence of reflective teaching;
- Intellectually rigorous, creative, and engaging pedagogy;
- Teaching workshops, invited talks, or presentations;
- External awards and recognitions by local, national, and international organizations for teaching excellence;
- Sustained contributions to curriculum development, and/or innovative instructional techniques and technologies.

TUC Innovative Teaching Awards

The Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) and the Provost's Office will recognize faculty who are engaged in innovative teaching. The award will recognize teaching effectiveness in planning, designing, and implementing instruction and assessment to improve student learning (e.g., new uses of instructional technology, new ways to engage students in the learning process, new approaches to student collaboration, or new methods

for improving student learning outcomes). It also may involve use of traditional technology in new and creative ways. This award is also designed to encourage the dissemination of these approaches to colleagues across disciplines.

Therefore, we offer three (3) Innovative Teaching Awards -- one that recognizes innovations at the Course or Curricular level (\$500 prize) and two that recognize innovative Assignments (\$250 prize). Winners will be required to present their innovations to the Faculty Senate or during a campus-wide event.

Eligibility

Any TUC employee (fulltime or part-time) is eligible to be nominated for the award

Call for Nominations

Employees are encouraged to self-nominate, but colleagues and students may also submit nominations.

How to Apply

Applicants should combine the following elements into a single PDF and submit the file no later than **3PM on Friday, April 23rd, 2021**. Applications should be emailed to: jim.oconnor@tu.edu

Application

An abstract or overview including:

1. Description of the innovation, idea genesis, development and implementation process
2. How the innovation differs from current teaching methods
3. Data demonstrating effectiveness of the innovation
4. How the effectiveness differs from current teaching methods
5. Plans for future development/continuous improvement
6. Cover page
7. Appendices or supporting documentation if necessary

Completed nominations should not exceed 4 pages (excluding appendices) and should be emailed to jim.oconnor@tu.edu. The nomination should include the nominee's name, department, and a narrative that clearly

addresses the criteria below as well as the contact information for the nominator if different from the nominee.

Selection Process

A faculty committee consisting of a faculty member from each college (appointed by the college dean), and the Director of the Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) will review applications. Since members serving on this committee may not be experts in the nominee's field, *it is important that nominations be submitted in language understandable to faculty in other disciplines*. A rubric will be used by the selection committee, which reflects the following selection criteria.

Criteria

These annual awardees meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Demonstrates significant innovation in teaching
- Actively promotes and implements aspects of innovation in teaching
- Acts as a role model for creating and sustaining a culture of creativity
- Motivates students to learn and stimulate interest in the subject
- The awardee may demonstrate innovations that have:
 - Influenced the methods and teaching effectiveness of other faculty
 - Utilized best practice and/or unique use of technology in teaching

The application criteria for the Innovative Teaching Award should include:

- Rationale for the development and use of the innovative teaching methods.
- Clearly articulated description of innovative teaching methods.
- Evidence that innovative teaching methods were effective.

Recipients should document and exhibit the effective use of innovative teaching that results in one or more of the following:

- Increased student performance

- Increased student motivation
- Increased collaboration
- Increased student engagement

The results above can be achieved through a variety of means, and the award is not intended to be limited to the use of technology. Several examples include:

- Modification of teaching methods and delivery format to address multiple learning styles and promote engagement and overall learning outcomes
- Incorporation of experiential learning activities that emphasize the concept of “place matters”
- Development and incorporation of a learning support tool
- Development and incorporation of learning outcomes assessment tools or processes

All innovations should have the following characteristics:

- **Originality** - new instructional approach/method or novel/creative application of a current instructional approach/method
- **Impact** - demonstrated significant impact on teaching effectiveness, student learning and/or retention
- **Replicability** - potential for use of this innovation by other instructors
- **Scalability** - potential for widespread use of this innovation

Contact

For more information or questions, please contact Jim O'Connor @ jim.oconnor@tu.edu