

UNB Teaching Innovation Award

About the Award

Established in 2015, the UNB Teaching Innovation Award celebrates and recognizes up to two UNB educators each year for their innovative approaches that promote student-centred teaching and learning.

Award recipients receive the following:

- 1) \$500 award
- 2) official university recognition

Adjudication for this award is the responsibility of the UNB Teaching Awards Committee (TAC). Members of the TAC represent a wide array of disciplines and a variety of teaching contexts.

Eligibility

The Teaching Innovation Award is open to all full-time and contract academic employees currently employed at UNB. The candidate must have taught at least 2 courses at UNB during the award year (12 months prior to nomination deadline). Up to two university educators will be chosen each year.

Criteria

This award recognizes a specific innovative initiative or a set of tightly connected initiatives implemented concurrently. The initial implementation of the innovation must have occurred within the four years preceding the submission.

Characteristics of a strong submission:

- A strong submission will clearly communicate to all TAC members the nature of the initiative. The committee members must develop a clear sense of what happens in classes or in a course as a result of this initiative, based on the submitted document.
- A strong submission will convince the TAC members that the initiative is in fact innovative.
- A strong submission will clearly communicate the relevance of the initiative to improvement of student learning and/or student engagement.
- A strong submission will provide convincing evidence of the positive impact of the initiative.
- A strong submission will outline how the author is sharing or has shared their initiative, its details and its impact, with other university educators (e.g. at Kaleidoscope, through Faculty presentations, via a CETL workshop, at National/regional teaching conferences, etc.)

Submission Requirements

The total page count shall not exceed 15 pages. This includes the cover page and any letters, illustrations, examples, etc. In the absence of figures and tables, a strong submission can be presented in substantially less than 15 pages.

The following components are required:

1. Cover page:

The cover page must include a title that clearly references the innovative initiative that is being put forward for consideration. The author's name must also be stated.

2. Description of the instructional innovation and its motivation:

In addition to a clear description of the initiative, this section of the submission must include the goals and/or learning outcomes of the initiative. This is also the section where the candidate must clearly define what is innovative about the initiative.

The applicant is encouraged to include any photos, screen-capture images, links, etc., that would help the reviewers understand the nature of the initiative.

3. Teaching Effectiveness:

This section must clearly explain how this initiative encourages active learning and/or student collaboration and/or higher-level learning, etc. It must also provide evidence of positive impact on learners' learning and/or engagement.

4. Looking Forward:

This section should describe plans and ideas for the next steps in the initiative.

5. Sharing and Dissemination:

This short section should specify how the author has shared information about their initiative with other university educators, be they at UNB or at other institutions.

6. Supporting Letters/Emails (maximum 3 letters/emails):

These may include a letter from the Dean/Chair, letters from colleagues, and letters from students. They may be in the form of emails.

To be effective, the letters must speak of the teaching initiative that is being put forward rather than speak of general teaching excellence.

Timeline for Applications/Award

- Deadline for submission: September 30th
- Award determined: October/November
- Award announcement/recognition: Celebrating Excellence event the following year.

Related National Award

Recipients of UNB's Teaching Innovation Award may wish to apply for the national Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) Brightspace Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning.

<http://www.stlhe.ca/awards/brightspace-innovation-award/>