NACTA TEACHING AWARD OF MERIT

Description

To encourage and recognize meritorious efforts in undergraduate teaching in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES).

Eligibility

- Full time continuing academic staff in Categories A1.1 through A1.4 (inclusive) and A1.6[1]
- Teaching in ALES, in the areas of agricultural, environmental, natural and/or life sciences
- Must be responsible for at least one course equivalent in teaching in the Faculty in the previous year

Criteria[2]

- Exhibits a consistently superior command of the subject matter
- Demonstrates excellent planning and organization in course outlines and objectives, reading and laboratory assignments, handouts, projects, grading schemes, examinations and all other material associated with undergraduate courses
- Instills vital interest in and enthusiasm for the subject on the part of students
- Strongly encourages and fosters independent study
- Generates a desire for continued learning
- Strongly encourages students to be critical, to think independently and to solve problems
- Presents the subject matter at an appropriate level of rigor
- Requires that students have a comprehensive, coherent understanding of the subject matter
- Consistently demonstrates a concern for student progress and is available and approachable for out-of-classroom consultation
- Is a valuable resource for both students and colleagues

Nomination Package

The nomination package should provide supporting information addressing the award criteria, while being consistent with nomination requirements for the [Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#)[3]; specifically,

- Name of nominee(s) and nominator(s)
- Letters of support from students and/or colleagues; student letters should comment on quality of teaching over a period of years and range of courses; letters from colleagues that comment on teaching methods, course materials, range of courses, and other activities related to teaching, are encouraged
- Teaching dossier of the nominee that includes a statement of teaching philosophy
- USRI scores for "Overall, the quality of the course was excellent", and "Overall, this instructor was excellent"

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[1] Categories are defined as in [Recruitment Policy (Appendix A) Definition and Categories of Academic Staff, Administrators and Colleagues](#).
[2] These are largely the same criteria as are used for the [Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#).
[3] External peer evaluations are NOT required for Faculty Teaching Award nominations.

<u>Nomination packages should not be longer than 20 pages</u>, and should not include materials such as course outlines, examples of examinations, term work (e.g., term papers/projects, assignments), etc. Given that this is an undergraduate teaching award, information about graduate teaching and supervision is not relevant. A brief curriculum vitae may be included with the package, however.

Adjudication

This award will be adjudicated by the ALES Awards Committee.

Application Deadline

- **Deadline for submission: August 14, 2020**
- All nominations/applications are to be sent electronically to Rehana Bennett, rrbennet@ualberta.ca