

Dr. and Mrs. H.H. Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Introduction:

This award recognizes *“an outstanding University of Manitoba educator who has demonstrated continuing teaching excellence and who made contributions to advancing teaching and learning at both the U of M and at the national or international level.”*

The Award consists of a plaque and a monetary award of \$12,500. The recipient will be included in the Convocation Ceremony and will also deliver a presentation within the U of M New Faculty Orientation and/or the Teaching and Learning Certificate program.

Eligibility:

- Anyone teaching more than 10 consecutive years. Year-long sabbaticals extend the consecutive year requirement by one year.
- No individual can be nominated for both the Saunderson and Stanton awards in any given year.
- If the nominee is a previous Stanton Award winner, a minimum of five years must have passed to be eligible for nomination of the Saunderson Award.
- The nomination is valid only for the year in which it is submitted.
- Any individual can be awarded the Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching, only once.

Obligations:

- By agreeing to be nominated, it is expected that the nominee will:
 - a. cooperate with the nomination facilitator in providing supporting evidence
 - b. attend the annual U of M Awards Ceremony and Convocation ceremony
 - c. present at the New Faculty Orientation program and/or the Teaching and Learning Certificate program
 - d. select how they will receive the monetary award – via payroll or credited to their Travel & Expense fund (subject to Faculty guidelines)

Each Faculty/College/School may only submit one candidate for the Saunderson Award. The Faculty/College/School process for this submission should ensure that high quality candidates are identified, and a match exists between the nominee’s achievements and the criteria for the award. An endorsement letter from the Dean must be included in the nominee’s Full Nomination file.

Who can nominate?

Any member of the University of Manitoba community (faculty, student or staff) can nominate someone for the Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Criteria

The Saunderson Award is not simply a lifetime teaching achievement award. The nomination submission **must** clearly address these criteria:

1. Continuing teaching excellence at the U of M,
2. Significant contributions to teaching and learning at the University of Manitoba as well as nationally and internationally, and
3. Demonstrated success in educational leadership and higher education research and/or scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL).

Note: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is defined as "scholarly inquiry into student learning which advances the practice of teaching by making research findings public... " SoTL practitioners draw from diverse research traditions to understand teaching and learning in a variety of contexts (International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning).

SoTL includes the following elements:

- Research questions about student learning and using sound methods to conduct systematic inquiry to answer them.
- Producing research about teaching and learning within a specific context.
- Grounding research questions within what is already known about the topic.
- Engaging students in the research process, ideally including them as collaborative partners with joint ownership/decision making over the processes and outcomes.
- Ensuring research is visible/public and critically reviewed (e.g., presentations, blogs, conferences, reports, white papers, peer-reviewed publications).
- Sharing enough detail to make the research methods replicable.
- Results can be used to enhance scholarly teaching.

The submission must include a modified CV, but a CV alone is **not** sufficient for consideration for the award.

Examples of support and evidence for Continuing Teaching Excellence:

- The nomination must include evidence of strong support from students, both present and former

- The range and diversity of support for the nominee (i.e. from students, colleagues, alumni, administrators, etc.)
- The range and complexity of contributions to teaching and learning at the University (within and beyond a home Department, School, or College)
- Participates in ongoing professional development related to teaching and learning
- Demonstrates scholarly teaching which includes:
 - Consulting the literature and evidence on teaching in your field
 - Reviewing research or scholarship about teaching, learning, or sharing discipline-specific knowledge
 - Applying scholarly findings to your teaching practice
 - Reflecting and/or self-evaluating your teaching practice
 - Consulting other teachers in your field and/or the teaching and learning centre
- Integration of best practices in instruction and assessment demonstrating effectiveness of teaching strategies, and clear evidence of student engagement
- Enthusiasm for teaching, innovative pedagogical approaches, grounding practice in learning theories
- Motivating students
- Acting as a role model for students and colleagues
- Description of teaching strategies developed to improve student learning, including their planning, development, execution and assessment
- Evidence of impact on student learning
- Lists of workshops, webinars, courses, or other professional development in which the nominee has participated
- Mentoring, advising, consultations outside of class, small-group tutoring, studio instruction, undergraduate research projects, experiential learning situations, etc.
- Evidence of transformative influence on student learning (e.g. improved assessment performance, course and program completion rates, acceptance rates to graduate programs, success in co-op placements, etc.)
- Evidence of grounding work in best practice
- Other recognition (internal or external) received for teaching excellence
- Letters from supporters describing the nominee's teaching and its impact on students' learning
- Curriculum and course development, planning, or coordination
- Development of curricular materials (e.g. textbooks, on-line resources, digital media, etc.)
- Any additional evidence addressing teaching excellence

Examples of support and evidence for *significant* contributions to teaching and learning at UM, nationally, and internationally:

- Mentoring and consultations to other faculty members
- Collaborative projects that improve quality of teaching and learning at the University or national level
- Sharing/translation of best educational practices

- Presentations at events on teaching and learning
- Course/curricular design or redesign, teaching innovation
- Development or redevelopment of Programs of study
- Description of educational materials developed
- Letters of support from mentees
- Description of initiatives to improve teaching at the University of Manitoba
- List of presentations or publications on teaching and learning
- Planning and policy making and description of the nature of involvement

Examples of support and evidence for demonstrated success in *educational leadership* and higher education research (e.g., the *scholarship of teaching and learning*):

Educational Leadership

- Written philosophy of educational leadership
- Planning and policy making and description of the nature of involvement
- List of presentations or publications on teaching and learning
- Awarded grant summaries for teaching related research projects or programs
- Membership on Boards or Committees of national or international teaching and learning organizations
- Invited presentations at national or international conferences related to teaching and learning
- participation as faculty/lead at creative residencies (e.g. residency program in visual, performing, or literary arts)
- invited or peer-reviewed demonstration of creative production, including innovative teaching strategies
- leading a Master Class for creative research/production

Higher Education Research and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

- Success in receiving grant funding (and other funds) for teaching or SoTL related research projects or programs
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals specifically related to teaching and learning
- Invited or peer-reviewed research presentations at national or international conferences related to teaching and learning
- Editorship or editorial board participation on peer-reviewed journals dedicated to teaching and learning
- Collaborative research projects regarding teaching and learning across Institutions

IMPORTANT: Some of the criteria above may be similar to those for other teaching awards at the University of Manitoba, including those sponsored by individual Faculties. However, it is expected that the Saunderson Award recipient demonstrates a significantly more advanced depth and breadth as appropriate for the prominence of the Saunderson Award.

Process

1. Obtain the nominee's permission.
2. Prepare, in collaboration with the nominee, a three-page Brief representing an "executive summary" of the nominee's accomplishments that meet the award criteria and eligibility.
3. It is essential that the Brief include evidence of one or more of the following minimum criteria:
 - Success in receiving grant funding (and other funds) for teaching related research projects or programs
 - Publication(s) in peer-reviewed journals specifically related to teaching and learning
 - Invited or peer-reviewed presentation(s) at national or international conferences related to teaching and learning
 - Editorship or editorial board participation on peer-reviewed journals dedicated to teaching and learning
 - Other evidence of higher education research and/or scholarship of teaching and learning
4. Submit the Brief to the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) – c/o Ms. Michelle Sookbirsingh (michelle.sookbirsingh@umanitoba.ca) - by the specified deadline for review by the Vice-Provost.
5. Once the Vice-Provost has made his/her recommendations regarding nominees to move forward in the process, the nominator compiles a Full Nomination file detailing the record of the nominee's accomplishments and submits the complete package by the specified deadline. The nominations will then be reviewed by the Vice-Provost Award Committee, which will select the award winner.
6. Student nominators may wish to contact the Dean's Office for assistance with compiling the Brief and, if necessary, the Full Nomination file. This can ensure that the submission reflects a full range of the nominee's contributions of which a student may not be aware.

Nomination Package

The full package must not exceed 40 pages.

It is essential that the full package include evidence of one or more of the following minimum criteria:

- Success in receiving grant funding (and other funds) for teaching related research projects or programs
- Publication(s) in peer-reviewed journals specifically related to teaching and learning

- Invited or peer-reviewed presentation(s) at national or international conferences related to teaching and learning
- Editorship or editorial board participation on peer-reviewed journals dedicated to teaching and learning
- Other evidence of higher education research and/or scholarship of teaching and learning

The required components of the nomination for the Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching are:

- A one-page endorsement letter written by the Dean
- A Nomination Brief (1 to 4 pages) prepared, and signed, by the nominator
 - clearly address nominee's achievements, functioning as an executive summary
- A citation (no more than 300 words – 1 page) suitable for press release and prepared by the nominator
- A statement of the nominee's Teaching Philosophy (1 to 3 pages), reflecting on teaching practices as they relate to fostering student learning and their intellectual growth
- A statement of the nominee's Philosophy of Educational Leadership which should include a reflection on personal progression in higher education research and/or scholarship of teaching and learning
- A summary of teaching evaluations (2 page maximum) over a minimum of five consecutive years - no raw data should be submitted, but rather summarize relevant information on 2 pages
- A modified Curriculum Vitae (1 to 4 pages) focusing on teaching, educational leadership, achievements and other contributions to teaching and learning – this CV is distinct from a typical CV relating to one's field of expertise so, for instance, do not include field-specific research publications, but do include presentations at discipline-based education or educational research conferences, or other educational conferences, workshops on teaching and learning, textbooks, teaching awards, etc.
- Letters of support (each letter must not exceed one page in length) that provide specific examples of why the nominee should be considered for the Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching. There should be a minimum of ten supporting letters, and they should include:
 - At least four letters from undergraduate or graduate students or alumna/alumnus (if the nominator is a student, there must be at least one letter from a student other than the nominator) (Note: Letters must provide description of impact beyond the nominee being an excellent instructor.)
 - At least two letters from colleagues (if the nominator is a colleague, there has to be at least one letter from a colleague other than the nominator)
 - At least two letters from administrators, other than the Dean whose letter is already included
 - At least two letters from outside the University of Manitoba

The total number of the above required pages is at minimum 17 and at maximum 25. This allows the nominator to include additional evidence or support letters to a maximum of 40 pages.

The nomination file must clearly address the Award Criteria as described above.

Selection Process

The recipient of the Saunderson Award for Excellence in Teaching is selected by the Vice-Provost Awards Committee to ensure that high quality candidates, whose achievements meet or exceed the awards criteria, are selected for the available university teaching awards.

The Vice-Provost Awards Committee Chair notifies the Provost of the selection results. The Vice-Provost Awards Committee Chair will write a congratulatory letter to the recipient.

Following notification to all nominees and nominators, the Provost makes a public announcement regarding all Awards recipients.

After the Provost's announcement, MCO posts the information on appropriate website(s) and creates materials for further announcements and public information, including addition of material to the appropriate convocation ceremony.

Updated: December 2023