2019 VC’s Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Up to 6 of $3000 each – Nominations due by 5:00pm, Friday 26 July, 2019

Guidelines for nomination

The Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning recognise and reward the diverse contributions made by individuals and teams to the quality of student learning. Citations are awarded for a range of contributions to student learning, both direct and indirect. They are awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period, whether they are academic staff, general staff, sessional staff or institutional associates.

Staff Eligibility

The Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards are intended to encourage, recognise and reward excellence and achievement in all forms of teaching and/or in innovations, initiatives and services that contribute in diverse ways to student learning. They are available to individuals and teams of academic and/or professional ongoing, contract or sessional staff. Nominees must be employed at ECU at the time of their nomination and receipt of the VC Award. All award winners will demonstrate ECU’s values of Integrity; Respect; Rational Inquiry; and Personal Excellence.

Nominees may only apply for one Award in any one year, with the exception that they may submit one individual application and one team application. Applicants who have received an award in the previous three years are ineligible to apply for the same award category, but can apply for a different award category. Unsuccessful nominees are eligible to re-apply.

Expectations of Award Recipients

Please note, as a condition of entry all applicants may be requested by the Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching (or nominee), or Director, Human Resources Service Centre (or nominee) to showcase their application on the university website as an ECU learning and teaching exemplar. Additionally, if successful, applicants may be asked to participate in the delivery of professional development activities aimed at the promotion and encouragement of quality learning and teaching practices at ECU.

Categories

Nominees will select ONE of the following four categories to address.

1. Approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn
2. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field
3. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning
4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience
Examples of claims that might be included are given below:

1. **Approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn; e.g.**
   - Fostering student development by stimulating curiosity and independence in learning
   - Participating in effective and empathetic guidance and advice for students
   - Assisting students from equity and other demographic subgroups to participate and achieve success in their courses
   - Encouraging student engagement through the enthusiasm shown for learning and teaching
   - Inspiring and motivating students through effective communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
   - Enabling others to enhance their approaches to learning and teaching
   - Developing and/or integrating assessment strategies to enhance student learning

2. **Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field of study; e.g.**
   - Developing and presenting coherent and imaginative resources for student learning
   - Implementing research-led approaches to learning and teaching
   - Demonstrating up-to-date knowledge of the field of study in the design of the curriculum and the creation of resources for learning
   - Communicating clear objectives and expectations for student learning
   - Providing support to those involved in the development of curricula and resources
   - Contributing professional expertise to enhance curriculum or resources

3. **Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning; e.g.**
   - Showing advanced skills in evaluation and reflective practice
   - Using a variety of evaluation strategies to bring about change
   - Adapting evaluation methods to different contexts and diverse student needs and learning styles
   - Contributing professional expertise to the field of evaluation in order to improve program design and delivery
   - Dissemination and embedding of good practice identified through evaluation

4. **Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience; e.g.**
   - Participating in and contributing to professional activities related to learning and teaching
   - Innovations in service and support for students; coordination, management and leadership of courses and student learning
   - Conducting and publishing research related to teaching
   - Demonstrating leadership through activities that have broad influence on the profession
   - Providing innovative learning and teaching for different contexts, including technology enhanced environments, for large and small class sizes and/or to meet the needs of a diverse student cohort
   - Influencing the overall academic, social and cultural experience of higher education
Assessment Criteria

Nominations will be judged on the extent to which the nominee’s contribution has:

- influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience;
- gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution, and/or the broader community; and
- been sustained for a period of no less than three years (two years for early career).

Nomination guide and structure

Nominations for Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning should comprise the following:

A. Nomination form, signed by the nominee and Executive Dean or Centre Director;

B. Statement of claims against one of the four assessment criteria which describes the nominee’s contribution to student learning in line with the selected criterion and provides evidence to support claims. This section is limited to four A4 pages comprising all of the following elements:
   - Overview of the nominee’s teaching and its context (in the first person);
   - Statement addressing the selected category (include category heading) with supporting evidence about impact on student learning; and
   - Reference list: nominees should use their preferred recognised reference style throughout and include a reference list within the four pages. Links to reference lists online will not be reviewed by assessors.

C. Two letters of reference of no more than one A4 page each, including one who is the nominee’s line manager or at a higher level.

Statement of contribution (for team nominations). Team nominations must include one A4 page which explains the role and indicates the percentage contribution of team members (limited to team members with 10 per cent or higher), in addition to the team information included within the nomination form.

Formatting requirements

Please ensure that all documents are A4 page size, fonts are 11 point Arial or Calibri, margins are at least 2cm all around, there is clear definition between paragraphs, and page numbers and section headings are included.

Selection panel

The selection panel will comprise:

- the PVC (Education), or nominee, (Chairperson);
- the Manager, Teaching Quality, Centre for Learning and Teaching, or nominee; and
- 3 x School Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning)

Additional panel members may also be drawn from:

- a representative from the Academic Staff Promotions Committee;
- previous Learning and Teaching award winners;
The Selection Panel has the authority to seek further evidence from such persons as it deems necessary to evaluate the nominations.

The Selection Panel reserves the right not to recommend an award if, in its assessment, there is no nomination of sufficient merit.

**Selection Process**

The Learning and Teaching Awards selection process is designed to fulfil three key functions:

1. facilitate decisions that are fair, valid, reliable, and transparent;
2. provide quality feedback to all applicants, enabling them to improve future applications; and
3. maximise the number of people who may contribute as assessors and thereby have the opportunity to learn about the process themselves.

The Vice-Chancellor will review the recommendations from the Awards Selection Committee and decide upon the winners. The Vice-Chancellor's decision will be final.

If the selection committee does not believe the criteria has been met to recommend a category winner, they may recommend that no Award be made.

The winners will be formally advised of the outcome. A copy of the certificate will be filed in the respective personal files.

**Method of Payment**

Nominated staff must choose a preferred option for payment as part of their nomination prior to submission:

- Cash lump sum payment (paid through the payroll system and subject to income tax at the employee’s marginal tax rate); or

- Payment credited directly to your UniSuper Superannuation Account as a pre-tax contribution. If nominees select this option they may wish to seek personal financial advice as there are caps on the amount you can contribute to your super each financial year that, if exceeded, may result in additional tax implication; or

- Nominated ECU project/research/school account to be paid into an ECU account of choice. The prize monies must be used for work related expenditure and cannot be redistributed among team members for personal use.
  
  o Nominees are advised to consult their respective Finance Manager (for School Staff) or Business Manager (for Service Centre Staff) before electing to nominate an ECU account. There are limitations for time period in which prize monies are to be spent and this will vary from area to area. These funds will be allocated to your school/centre in January of the following year and must be used by the end of that year.
  
  o Work related expenditure does not normally attract Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). However, if FBT does apply to the expenditure, it will form part of the award amount so the team members would only be eligible to spend the net-of-FBT amount. Nominees are advised to consult their respective Business Manager or School Finance Team if unsure.
For team based nominations, prize monies will be divided between team members equally unless specified at time of nomination to the HR Executive Officer.

**Presentation of Awards**

The Vice-Chancellor will host an event that provides formal and public recognition of the respective achievements and excellence of our staff, at which the Vice-Chancellor’s Staff Awards will be presented.

Winners may be asked to present at various public events. Event photography may be utilised to promote the awards.