

President's Award for Excellence in Innovative Instructional Delivery: 2025-2026 Overview & Criteria

About the Award

The [President's Award for Excellence in Innovative Instructional Delivery](#) is designed to recognize faculty who have gone above and beyond to adapt to an ever-changing classroom environment or who have provided outstanding contributions to learning via course design and implementation.

Established in 2020 by President Ali A. Houshmand, the award spotlights instructional delivery innovations that demonstrably improve student access, engagement, and outcomes across courses, programs, and certificates. It is coordinated by the Rowan Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Criteria

What reviewers look for (including but not limited to):

- Novel methods that measurably foster student learning and development
- Promising pedagogical techniques implemented with intention and evidence
- Creative student engagement strategies that demonstrably impact learning

Strong applications clearly describe the delivery innovation, show why it is new in context, and present credible evidence of positive impact on students.

Award Eligibility

- The following positions from all University campuses are eligible for this award:
 - Full-time faculty members (pre-tenure, tenure track, and non-tenure track) in any year of service
 - Part-time faculty members
 - Adjunct faculty members
 - Professional staff or librarians in a teaching role
- The following courses are able to be included in the application:
 - Courses from the past year (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2025)
 - Any course delivery mode (in-person, hybrid, online, etc.)
- **A note regarding [previous recipients](#):** Anyone who has received this award (either as an individual or as part of a team) in the last three years may not apply.

Award Amount and Details

- **Individual Award:**
 - One \$1000 award is given to an individual.
 - Award money must be spent on professional development.
 - The award money will be transferred to the individual awardee's departmental operating budget in July of the following fiscal year (July 2026).
 - The award money must be used by June 30, 2027.
- **Team Award:**

- One \$2000 award is given to a team (to be shared by the team)
- Award money must be spent on professional development.
- The award money will be transferred to Lead Applicant's departmental operating budget in July of the following fiscal year (July 2026). The team will determine how funds will be distributed from that account.
- The award money must be used by June 30, 2027.
- **Stipulations:**
 - Per [university policy](#), awards may not be used to attend or participate in on-campus events/services that would otherwise require attendees to pay with personal funds. This includes Rowan seminars, conferences, conventions, luncheons, fundraisers, etc.
 - Awardees agree to presenting their innovative work to the Rowan Community in partnership with the Faculty Center.

Nomination Process:

- An individual or team may be nominated by:
 - A peer
 - An administrator
 - Self-nomination
 - A student
- Submit your nomination via this Google form: [Nomination for the 2025-2026 President's Award for Excellence in Innovative Instructional Delivery](#)
- Eligible nominees will be notified and given further instructions for applying.
- The **nomination deadline** is **December 10, 2025**. Nominations will not be accepted after the deadline.

Application Process:

- This process is competitive.
- Nominees interested in applying will follow the instructions in the [Application Template: 2025-2026 President's Award for Excellence in Innovative Instructional Delivery](#).
- For team applications, a Lead Applicant will submit the form.
- The **application deadline** is **January 25**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Recognition of the Winners:

- Winners are presented at the University's Celebrating Excellence Awards ceremony in April.
- Winners are announced in a Rowan Announcer.
- Winners are listed on [the President's Award for Excellence in Innovative Instructional Delivery Winners page](#) of the Faculty Center website.