



Todd Nickle Teaching Award – Nomination Form

Purpose:

The Todd Nickle Teaching Award is awarded up to once per year to support extraordinary contributions by educators to the success of undergraduate biology students in one or more of the following areas:

1. **Excellence in Teaching and/or Supporting Biology Instruction** to any levels of undergraduate learners. This includes instructors who maximize student learning through their pedagogical practice, and who foster inclusivity, demonstrate continual reflection of their teaching practices, and engage in scholarly teaching.
2. **Excellence in Innovation in the Biology Classroom or Laboratory** through embracing technologies to facilitate learning. This may include an instructor who demonstrates educational innovation to improve teaching and learning effectiveness through the creation and/or implementation of novel technologies in the biology classroom or laboratory.

Background:

Todd Nickle was a biology professor at Mount Royal University from 1999 to 2021. He was a person who had incredible enthusiasm for the teaching and learning process and he was an early adopter of new technologies. He understood that large classes were inevitable and so was always looking for ways to reach out to all his students. He was an active part of many learning communities such as the Alberta Introductory Biology (AIBA) and the Association for Biology Lab Education (ABLE) as he was always looking for new ideas, new information, and new technologies. He was truly an inclusive educator, connecting with and mentoring many peers across the province and beyond. Todd even inspired experienced teachers to review how they taught and change the ways they present their material. He was the inaugural president of AIBA and continued to be involved in the Undergraduate Biology Educators Association (renamed from the AIBA) through 2021. He helped in some way with the organization of almost every UBEA/AIBA conference for over 25 years.

Eligibility

1. Awards of Excellence nominations may be submitted for active (regardless of seniority) undergraduate biology (and any sub-disciplines within) teaching instructors and/or individuals involved in the teaching and learning experience (e.g., lab coordinators) in the Province of Alberta. This includes faculty who teach on a part time or full-time basis and graduate teaching assistants.
2. This award of excellence can only be awarded once to a recipient.

Criteria (One or more of the following)

1. Instills vital interest in and enthusiasm for the subject of biology in their students.
2. Strongly encourages and fosters both independent and collaborative study of biology while consistently demonstrating concern for student progress and creating a safe inclusive learning environment.
3. Incorporates novel teaching strategies and/or technologies into their teaching.
4. Demonstrates excellence beyond the classroom. For example, promoting and contributing to excellence in teaching by collaborating with others, presenting at conferences within their institution and/or with communities at large.

Who Can Nominate Educators?

Anyone who meets the above criteria can be nominated for the award. Individuals are welcome to nominate other educators, and self nominations are also welcome.

Nomination Package

Nomination packages must include evidence of how the educator has achieved the criteria of the award outlined above. They are expected to be prepared by the Nominator – although the educator being nominated will have to complete the narrative CV even if someone else is nominating them.

Such evidence should include:

1. A cover letter prepared by the nominator that outlines the key points upon which the nomination is based, showcasing how the educator meets the criteria for the award.
2. A brief, narrative CV rather than a traditional CV. As this award is based on undergraduate teaching, detailed information about graduate teaching and research publications is not relevant. We encourage applicants to include detailed information about their interactions with undergraduates in any capacity (e.g. classroom, teaching assistants for lab coordinators, supervising undergraduate research projects, etc.). This narrative CV should only be a maximum of 5 pages in length and should include a personalized explanation of the nominee's teaching philosophy. Tell a story - these types of narrative CVs will stand out to us. Examples from a traditional CV may be included where appropriate, such as qualitative descriptions about contributions to scholarship (e.g. publishing in open access journals), to the development of their undergraduate students, and to their institution and the community at large. Optionally, it may also include a narrative summary and reflection on student evaluations, particularly with reference to questions relating to the overall quality of instruction and assessment of the course work. Nominators may, for example, reflect on how the nominee changed their teaching to reflect student feedback. If the nominee has been away from teaching on a leave for whatever reason, their application will not be penalized. Use the narrative CV template.
3. Support letters from peers (minimum 2, maximum 3). Nominators are encouraged to address the "what", the "how" and the "why" of the nominee's teaching and innovation strengths and activities and letters should speak to the criteria (listed above) in particular. All letters of support should be sent to the Nominator to be submitted with a complete nomination package.
4. Support letters from current and former students (optional, maximum 5). These should be included in the nomination package.

Nomination Submission Size and Details

- Please limit the size of the nomination package to 20 pages (not including the cover pages and/or table of contents) using 12 point font and minimum 1 inch margins.
- Submit the package as a single pdf.
- Letters of support must be signed, however, electronic signatures are acceptable.
- Email the full package to the UBEA President at **president@ubea.ca**.

Award Timeline and Details

The call for nominations for this award will go out in mid-November of each year.

Nomination packages will be due by January 31 annually.

Successful recipients of this award will be publicly announced at the annual UBEA meeting in May.

The successful recipient will be invited to give a presentation at the following annual conference where they highlight some of their activities that led to them receiving the award. They will also be invited to be on the Todd Nickle teaching award selection committee for the year after they have received the award.

Award recipients will receive a plaque, free membership for one year in UBEA, and complimentary registration for the UBEA annual conference in the following year.