



# President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching & Learning

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## 2018 Call for Nominations

### **Description of the Award:**

The President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning demonstrates the value McMaster attaches to its educational function and recognizes those who, through innovation and commitment, have significantly enhanced the quality of their students' learning experience.

Each President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning recognizes the contributions of an individual or group collaboration to education through innovation, continued excellence in teaching, and enhanced student learning. It is an award that recognizes sustained and effective achievement with weight given to evidence of continuing effort and outstanding contributions over a number of years especially at the undergraduate level.

Outstanding contributions to teaching and learning may be demonstrated by evidence of the intellectual growth of students and enhanced student learning that results from innovative teaching in the classroom, the mentorship of students through involvement in research or practical experience, the development of novel and effective educational materials, or leadership that promotes teaching and learning at McMaster.

Recipients of the President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning receive:

- A citation of excellence and memento to be presented at Spring Convocation;
- Option to pool monies of award winners (valued up to \$15,000) for cohort teaching and learning project OR an honorarium in the amount of \$3,000 individually;
- An inscription of the recipient's name on a permanent plaque bearing names of all previous award recipients;
- An invitation to the President's Cohort Day and the President's Retreat;
- Membership in McMaster's community of award-winning educators now assembled as the McMaster Teaching Academy.

Up to five awards may be given each year.

### **Eligibility:**

All full-time and part-time faculty and staff (including those who are on contract) who contribute to teaching and learning at McMaster are eligible. A previous recipient remains eligible, but only on the basis of work completed since the previous award. Senior administration (i.e. Chairs, Associate Deans, Deans) are not eligible to apply for the award while they hold their positions but are encouraged to support and nominate outstanding faculty for the President's Award.

### **The Nomination Process:**

1. A 1-2 page nomination brief is completed by a nominator who can attest to the nominee's quality of teaching and impact on student learning. Nominations are submitted by the respective Chair or Dean but can be proposed by members of faculty, students, or staff.
2. Nominators complete and **submit the nomination brief by 4:00pm on January 31st, 2018.**
3. The selection committee will review the nomination briefs to assess the eligibility and quality of the nomination.
4. By mid-February, selected nominees will be contacted by the committee and encouraged to develop and **submit a nomination portfolio by 4:00pm on March 31st, 2018.** Electronic teaching portfolios are submitted to [mi@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mi@mcmaster.ca).

### **The Nomination Brief:**

A [nomination brief](#) is completed by the Chair or Dean who attests to the nominee's excellence and effectiveness in teaching, as well as the impact that the nominee has on student learning. Nominators should discuss the nominee's particularly innovative teaching, mentoring, educational leadership, or development of innovative teaching materials, and highlight compelling evidence that demonstrates sustained impact on and enhancement of the student learning experience. Nominators should be aware that the President's Award is not intended to celebrate impressive accomplishments more broadly, but to celebrate innovative teaching processes and impacts demonstrated by a faculty member -- or, a team of faculty members that are being nominated as a group. For individual or group nominations, clear connections to McMaster's values and current priorities as well as evidence of impact that reaches across the university and/or externally would strengthen a nomination. If nominating a group, the nomination brief should clearly explain the collaborative teaching initiative engaged by a team of faculty members, and why this group of faculty are being nominated together, as opposed to individually, with a compelling suite of evidence.

The nominator should complete and submit the nomination brief no later than **4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2018.**

### **The Nomination Portfolio:**

The nomination portfolio is an expanded version of the teaching portfolio prepared by the nominee to showcase the best possible evidence for outstanding contributions to teaching and learning. Support from the nominator and the Paul. R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation & Excellence in Teaching is highly encouraged. Check out our guide: [\*Preparing a Teaching Portfolio\*](#).

Nomination portfolios are expected to be approximately 30 pages, but **must not exceed 35 numbered pages**, including appendices and graphics. Any portfolio that is submitted which exceeds 35 pages will not be considered for the award.

Similar to McMaster's Teaching Portfolio requirements (see SPS-B2), the following elements should be included in the nomination portfolio for an individual or group nomination:

- An abstract (written in plain language similar to a press statement) that summarizes why you should get the award, what makes you outstanding?
- A statement of teaching approach or philosophy.
- A description of innovative teaching, mentoring, leadership practice, or development of educational materials, including examples of how the approach/philosophy has been realized.
- Evidence that demonstrates the impact or value-added that results from the nominee's teaching innovations and sustained effectiveness over a number of years. Mentorship of student learning through involvement in research or practical experience at the institutional, local, or global levels may be included. Evidence of impact in the areas of student experience, community engagement, undergraduate research, and/or international education would strengthen an application.
- Letters of support from colleagues and students. Letters of support should be varied and diverse, consisting of a variety of constituents (students, faculty, institutional, national, international, other) that can attest to the nominee's impact and effectiveness in teaching and learning.

If submitting as a group, the nomination portfolio must clearly outline and explain the collaborative teaching initiative engaged by a team of faculty members and why the team is applying as a group as opposed to pursuing individual nominations. Group nomination portfolios should also provide the selection committee with a clearly articulated vision, philosophy, and approach shared by the group, and how this vision has been realized in the context of a collaborative teaching initiative that has contributed, with evidence of impact, to advancing a culture of innovation and excellence in teaching and learning at McMaster.

Nomination portfolios must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 30, 2018.**

Electronic portfolios should be submitted to [mi@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mi@mcmaster.ca).

### **The Selection Committee:**

The Selection Committee is approved by the President and will normally include the following:

- Chair: Appointed by the President
- One faculty member, external to McMaster
- Two previous President's Award recipients
- One 3M National Teaching Fellow
- One representative of the McMaster Students Union
- One representative from the Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching (who has not provided support to the nominator or nominee).

### **Support Available:**

The Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching are available to assist nominators in developing a nomination brief and nominees in developing a nomination portfolio. To book a consultation, please fill in our [online form](#).