

Faculty Inspired Innovator Award

Award Description

The **Inspired Innovator Award** at Western University of Health Sciences celebrates the power of creativity, vision, and forward-thinking in shaping the future of education, healthcare, and our community. This award recognizes faculty who bring fresh ideas, challenge conventional practices, and develops groundbreaking solutions that significantly enhance the university's programs, services, and campus life. The Inspired Innovator Award honors individuals whose work fosters progress and positive change, driving innovation that improves the university experience for students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

By recognizing these innovators, we aim to inspire others to push boundaries, explore new possibilities, and cultivate a culture of continuous improvement and creative problem-solving across all areas of our institution.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees for the **Inspired Innovator Award** should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Creative Solutions to Complex Challenges

- Develops and implements innovative solutions to address complex issues in higher education, healthcare, or campus operations.
- Demonstrates an ability to think outside the box to solve problems and overcome obstacles.

2. Willingness to Challenge Norms

- Displays a fearless approach to challenging traditional methods, exploring new possibilities, and thinking beyond the status quo.
- Encourages a culture of experimentation and creative problem-solving.

3. Inspirational Leadership and Impact

- Inspires colleagues and students with their imaginative thinking, offering new perspectives and motivating others to adopt innovative approaches.
- Contributes to a positive shift in organizational culture or academic environment, consistent with our humanistic values, through innovative practices.

4. Successful Implementation of Innovations

- Demonstrates measurable success in introducing and implementing new ideas that have resulted in improved university programs, services, or student experiences.
- Initiates change that has lasting, positive effects on the university, its stakeholders, or the broader community.

Eligibility

This award is open to:

- **Faculty Members:** Individuals whose innovative contributions have had a positive impact on teaching, or community engagement.

Nomination Process

- Nominations can be submitted by administrators, faculty, staff, or students.
- A nomination form must include:
 - A letter from the nominator detailing how the nominee exemplifies leadership attributes by outlining specific examples.
 - One letter of support from a faculty, student, or staff.

Selection process

- Nominations will be reviewed by the Institutional Awards Taskforce.

Award Presentation

- The Award will be presented annually at the Board of Trustees Past & Present Gratitude Dinner.