

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 and staff who bring fresh ideas, challenge conventional practices, and develop 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 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.
- **Staff Members:** Individuals whose innovative solutions have improved university operations, student services, or campus life.

Nomination Process

- Nominations can be submitted by any member of the Western University of Health Sciences community, including students, faculty, and staff.
- Nominations should clearly outline how the nominee meets the criteria above, providing specific examples of innovative ideas, solutions, and their impact.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations can be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, or students.
- A nomination form must include:
 - A statement detailing why the team deserves the award.
 - Specific examples of teamwork, collaboration, and positive impact.
 - Testimonials or supporting documents from colleagues or supervisors.

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

Western University of Health Sciences

Interprofessional Excellence Award (Team Award)

Award Description

The Interprofessional Excellence Award at Western university Of Health Sciences recognizes faculty and staff—including those in academic, clinical, and support roles—who demonstrate exceptional leadership in fostering collaboration across disciplines. This award honors individuals who actively promote interprofessional education (IPE), teamwork, and cross-departmental cooperation, creating transformative learning and working environments that enhance both student success and institutional effectiveness.

Interprofessional collaboration extends beyond faculty and clinical teams. Staff in administrative, operational, and student support roles are essential in building the infrastructure that enables interdisciplinary education and teamwork. Whether through program development, student services, facilities management, IT support, research coordination, or healthcare operations, award recipients go beyond their roles to create a culture of shared decision-making, communication, and interdisciplinary problem-solving that strengthens the university and healthcare system.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees should demonstrate excellence in interprofessional collaboration through one or more of the following:

1. Leadership in Interprofessional Education or Practice

- Develops and implements innovative interprofessional teaching strategies, simulations, or team-based learning activities.
- Advocates for interprofessional collaboration within Western University and the broader healthcare community.
- Creates policies or initiatives that enhance interdisciplinary teamwork and education.
- Plays a key role in operational or administrative efforts that support interdisciplinary teamwork and enhance institutional effectiveness.

2. Impact on Student Learning & Development

- Creates structured opportunities for students from different disciplines to collaborate in clinical, academic, or co-curricular settings.
- Demonstrates measurable impact on student competencies in interprofessional teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.
- Provides mentorship or support that enhances students' interprofessional learning experiences.

3. Promotion of Interprofessional Collaboration Across Departments

- Leads or supports cross-disciplinary research, projects, or initiatives integrating multiple healthcare professions and support units.
- Strengthens partnerships between academic programs, clinical environments, administrative offices, and external healthcare organizations.
- Build bridges between support units (e.g., student affairs, IT, facilities, HR, finance) and academic or clinical teams to improve collaboration and efficiency.

Eligibility

The Interprofessional Excellence Award recognizes those who don't just advocate for collaboration, they make it happen across academic, clinical, and support units, shaping the future of healthcare education and institutional success at WesternU.

This award is open to:

- **Faculty Members:** Individuals whose innovative contributions have had a positive impact on teaching, or community engagement.
- **Staff Members:** Individuals whose innovative solutions have improved university operations, student services, or campus life.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations can be submitted by faculty, staff, administrators, or students.
- A nomination form must include:
 - A statement detailing why the team deserves the award.
 - Specific examples of teamwork, collaboration, and positive impact.
 - Testimonials or supporting documents from colleagues or supervisors.

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