Dearing Awards 2017

Celebrating Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Dearing Awards acknowledge the world-class contribution made by University staff to creating a student learning environment which is nurturing as well as challenging, creative and innovative.

The Dearing Award Scheme has been running since 1999 and is overseen by Teaching and Learning Executive Group. The scheme’s judging panel consists of the Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning [tbc], the Vice-Provosts for Teaching and Learning from UNNC and UNMC, senior members of staff and officers of the Student Union. The panel meets once a year to consider the achievements of colleagues – academic, technical and administrative – who have been nominated, and they select the best ones for an award. Each year twenty awards are made to teaching staff and ten for staff from other categories, e.g. technical or support staff. Winners are invited to their School’s or Department’s degree ceremony where they are presented with an award certificate. The list of winners and examples of winning entries will be published on the University’s website. The awards are highly valued within the University; they will, for instance, be taken into account in applications for promotion.

Eligibility
The scheme recognises that staff contribute to the learning environment in many different ways. It is therefore open to staff at all stages of their career and in a wide range of roles.

The scheme encompasses

- all staff at the University who contribute to the learning environment;
- all forms of teaching/teaching support: e.g. lectures, seminars, tutorials, fieldtrips, practicals, research degree supervision, technology enabled learning etc.;
- different types of excellence achieved, e.g. technical innovation, experience in a specialist area or creative development of new practices or courses.

In order to be considered for an award, members of staff need to be nominated either by their students or by their colleagues. Awards may be made to individuals or to teams. Dearing Awards can only be won once; previous winners are not eligible. This does not apply to members of winning teams, who may subsequently be nominated in their own right, and vice versa to individual winners who may be nominated again as part of a team. Nominees who are nominated both as an individual and as a member of a team have to decide which nomination to carry forward; they cannot enter twice in the same year. Nominees must be on the University’s payroll on the date of the Panel Meeting.
Criteria
The judging panel will make recommendations for awards based on the nomination evidence and using the criteria listed below:

- Excellence in supporting the learning environment;
- Inspiring and/or innovative approach to teaching;
- Recognition and support of diverse student learning needs;
- Engaging with colleagues in the enhancement of teaching and learning;
- A serious and ongoing commitment to review and reflection to enhance individual practice;
- Clear evidence of putting students at the centre of the learning experience.

What do I need to do if I am nominated?
If you have been nominated and are eligible, we will contact you to check whether you wish to go ahead and to ascertain the name and contact details of your Head of School. We will then contact him or her and request a reference. It may be a good idea for you to discuss your submission with your Head of School. Please do not supply any additional references, e.g. student testimonials. These will not be considered by the judging panel.

Nominations are confidential, so we will not be able to tell you who nominated you, but we will pass on the comments outlining why you have been nominated.

Your main task will be to complete a submission form with details of your approach and the activities you have introduced which have improved student learning and/or the learning environment. Please do not exceed the word count stipulated on the form; the panel may exclude submissions that are too long. The form asks for your permission for the panel to view your SET scores. Please note that if this applies to you (i.e. if you are an academic, rather than a member of support staff) the panel will not consider your submission without seeing your SET scores. If you are a member of support staff, panel encourages you to include in your submission any measures you might have used to gauge success. Please do not append any additional material, it will not be taken into account.

Please submit via our web form.

Timetable
Friday 27th January 2017 Call for Nominations
Tuesday 4th April 2017 Deadline for providing contact details for Head of School/Department
Wednesday 19th April 2017 Deadline for personal submissions
17:00 for all campuses
Friday 12th May 2017 Judging Panel meets
Wednesday 17th May 2017 Teaching and Learning Executive Group meets
July 2017 Awards presented at relevant School’s Graduation Ceremony