West Coast Teaching Excellence Award

Updated: 2026-Nov

Background

The West Coast Teaching Excellence Award (WCTEA) is a provincial/regional award from the British Columbia Teaching and Learning Council (BCTLC) that recognizes excellence in teaching in publicly-funded colleges, institutes, and universities of British Columbia and the Yukon. A maximum of five award recipients are recognized annually. Generally, no more than one recipient per institution has been recognized in a single competition cycle.

TRU is permitted to nominate a **maximum of two individuals or teams** for the West Coast Teaching Excellence Award. The award package requires a nomination letter from the President, Vice-President Academic or designate.

To ensure that only the maximum of two nomination packages are sent to the President's or Provost's offices for endorsement, the Centre for Open and Engaged Learning (COEL) has established an internal review process and timeline.

TRU Internal Nomination Process

Internal (TRU) deadline for applications: **January 15 (annually)**

At the internal nomination stage, applications should include the following part in their submission:

- ✓ Part 1: Introduction,
- ✓ Part 3: Academic Career Achievement
- ✓ Part 4: Teaching Philosophy
- ✓ Part 5: Evidence of Excellence in Teaching
- ✓ Part 6: Reflection and Learning from Student Feedback

See "**Nomination Guidelines**" on the BCTLC website for details on content for each part (https://bctlc.ca/west-coast-teaching-excellence-awards/).

The Director of COEL will strike an award adjudication committee to review internal applications. Where feasible, membership of the committee will include:

- a representative from COEL, who will Chair the committee
- members of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, and
- former winners of a teaching award (TRU internal and/or external teaching awards).

The committee will recommend up to two individuals to be nominated by TRU. Those individuals' packages will be forwarded to the Director of COEL, the applicant's Dean's Office, and the President's or Provost's Office, along with rationale for the university's nomination relative to the award criteria.

While applications do not need to be in their final form for the internal deadline, they will be reviewed based on their substance at that time. They should be at a stage where the package is ready to be read by the President, Provost or designate to support preparation of the Nomination Letter (Part 2 of the required dossier by BCTLC).

Notification of Internal Decision:

The Chair of the adjudication committee will communicate decisions to internal applicants by the **first week of February**.

Package Preparation

Applicants may work on **Part 7 Letters of Support** and the **Appendices 1-2** of the award package while awaiting a response from the award adjudication committee.

Applicants are to wait until after having their nomination confirmed by TRU before beginning to work on **Appendix 3**. The Director of COEL will work with the relevant offices for the preparation of **Part 2 Nomination Letter**.

Appendices 1-2 focus on Student Ratings of Instruction. These will be prepared by the nominee with support from COEL and Integrated Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) (Stephanie Klassen SKlassen@tru.ca; Associate Director, IPE).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their final package addresses all required elements of the award, including strict adherence to the page limits. Packages that do not meet the nomination guidelines will not be submitted by TRU for BCTLC's consideration.

Package Submission:

Completed packages must be emailed as a single PDF file to the Director of COEL, Brian Lamb Blamb@tru.ca, **by Feb 23 (Tue), 2027 at 11:59 pm** for a timely submission to BCTLC. According to BCTLC processes, the award package must be submitted by the Director of COEL.

Contact:

For advice on preparing an application, TRU faculty are invited to connect with COEL coel@tru.ca.