

Kathleen O'Connell Teaching Excellence Award

New College

This award honors outstanding teaching and recognizes the important contributions made by sessional instructional staff to the teaching mission of New College in its academic programs, interdisciplinary courses and Writing Centre. Dr. Kathleen O'Connell has taught courses on Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray at New College for two decades, beginning in 1993. Her teaching, in the spirit of both Tagore and Ray, exemplifies New College's commitment to socially engaged education and pedagogical innovation.

Value of the Award

A Certificate of Recognition and a prize of \$2,500.

Eligibility

All instructors are eligible to be nominated who have been employed by New College under the CUPE3902 Unit 3 Collective Agreement within the current academic year and who have taught a minimum of one half course or 130 hours in the current academic year. All categories and ranks of instructor within the CUPE3902 Unit 3 employed at New College are eligible, including Sessional Lecturers I, II and III, Writing Instructors I and II, and Sessional Instructional Assistants. For Sessional Lecturers and Instructional Assistants, relevant courses are those with an NEW designator or jointly offered courses administered by New College (e.g., JQR360H1). The "current academic year" refers to the May-August Summer Session and the Fall/Winter Session immediately preceding the April 30 deadline for the submission of nominations.

Nomination Process

The vice-principal, New College, will solicit nominations annually to be submitted by April 30. Nominations may be made by students on the basis of their experience of the candidate's teaching in courses offered by New College or in the New College Writing Centre, or by colleagues teaching in New College programs and courses, including faculty, sessional instructors, writing instructors and teaching assistants.

Nominators will submit the Nomination Form and a Letter of Nomination outlining how the candidate exemplifies excellent teaching at New College. Up to two additional supporting letters may be submitted. Nominations should be submitted by email to Nancy Dragicevic, New College Program Support Officer, at nc.progsupport@utoronto.ca.

Upon receipt of a nomination, the vice-principal will confirm the eligibility of the nominee and solicit supporting materials from the candidate in the form of a teaching dossier that includes a statement of teaching philosophy, course syllabi and other relevant course

materials. The vice-principal will supply teaching evaluations to the Awards Committee.

Candidates will be assessed by a committee consisting of the vice-principal, two faculty members, a student from New College or taking courses in New College programs and a member of CUPE3902 Unit 3, if possible, the previous year's winner. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously received the award.

The award may not be conferred every year.

Criteria for excellence may include:

1. Excellent knowledge and communication of subject area;
2. Motivating and engaging students in learning;
3. Promoting socially engaged learning;
4. Promoting deep learning, critical thinking and independent learning;
5. Developing teaching practices that foster equity and diversity;
6. Effective or innovative approaches to fostering interdisciplinarity;
7. Excellent course design;
8. Designing effective or innovative learning activities and/or teaching materials;
9. Effective use of technology;
10. Effective methods to develop core skills (e.g., communication, collaboration and research skills);
11. Effective or innovative assignments and effective feedback;
12. Reflecting critically on teaching and learning, as well as demonstrated commitment to teaching.

Some questions to help you draft your nomination letter:

1. Keeping in mind the criteria above, how did your instructor create an effective learning environment?
2. What difference did your instructor make in your academic experience and development?
3. What ways of teaching contributed to making this difference? You may want to provide an example.
4. What do you think are the most distinctive qualities your instructor brings to their teaching? What sets this instructor apart?

**New College Teaching Excellence Award (CUPE3902 Unit 3)
Nomination Form**

SUBMISSION DATE: _____

CANDIDATE
CANDIDATE'S NAME:
EMAIL:
TEACHING ROLE AT NEW COLLEGE (please indicate CUPE3902 Unit 3 status and course/s taught or Writing Centre position held during the preceding academic year (May 1- April 30):

NOMINATOR/S
NOMINATOR/S NAME/S:
EMAIL/S:
RELATION TO THE CANDIDATE'S TEACHING AT NEW COLLEGE:

PROGRAM/UNIT DIRECTOR
NAME:
SIGNATURE:

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