

The University of Victoria

2022 Provost's Award in Engaged Scholarship

Purpose and Background

The University of Victoria (UVic) is deeply committed to community-university engagement, one of the six priorities identified in the [Strategic Framework \(2018-2023\)](#). UVic is recognized as a national leader in community-university engagement (CUE). CUE is embedded in many activities across our university through teaching, research, with a vast inventory of community-focused initiatives.

The Strategic Framework articulates UVic's vision "to be the Canadian research university that best integrates outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet." The Engaged Scholar Awards program is intended to assist the University to meet its strategic objectives in relation to community-engagement and to celebrate exceptional community-engaged scholarship at UVic.

Community-engaged scholarship involves the discovery, integration or synthesis, and application of knowledge and inquiry in ways that connect it to understanding and solving pressing social, civic and ethical problems or to aesthetic or celebratory projects (informed by Boyer 1990). Such scholarship involves the faculty member in a reciprocal partnership with the community, is interdisciplinary and integrates faculty roles of teaching, research and service. It is defined by the collaboration between academics and individuals outside of the academy – knowledge holders, professionals and the general public (local, regional, national and global) – for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The scholarship of engagement includes explicitly democratic dimensions of encouraging the participation of non-academics in ways that enhance and broaden engagement and deliberation about major issues inside and outside the university. It seeks to facilitate a more active and engaged democracy by bringing affected publics into problem-solving work in ways that advance the public good with and not merely for the public.¹

¹ Adapted from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, University of Massachusetts.



Eligibility

Nominations are open to UVic tenured faculty members. Awardees must hold that status for the duration of the award (five years as Provost's Engaged Scholar).

The Award

Awards are conferred to faculty members who have achieved great distinction as community-engaged scholars. Recipients will be conferred the title of Provost's Engaged Scholar, which they will hold for five years, renewable as long as the faculty member is employed at the University of Victoria and continues to display exemplary community-engaged scholarship.

Each year, the Vice-President Academic and Provost will determine the number of Engaged Scholar awards to be granted (usually 1-2 awards). Recipients will receive a one-time award of \$10,000 at the beginning of their five-year term to support their community-engaged teaching and research.

At the end of the 5-year period, the recipients will be required to provide a report of their community-engagement activities over the 5-year term to be reviewed by the Provost. Recipients may then have the title renewed as long as they provide ample support of their ongoing exemplary community-engaged scholarship.

Nomination Criteria and Procedures

Nominations will be evaluated on the basis of a dossier documenting community-engaged scholarship. The dossier is to include:

- Personal Statement
- A letter of nomination and support from the nominee's Dean
- At least one letter of reference from a community partner
- Nominee's current CV



Personal Statement:

- A personal statement not exceeding five pages (single-space, 12 pt. font) addressing the following:
 - Provides at least three concrete and significant examples of how the nominee's academic career embodies the University of Victoria's commitment to community-engagement in the areas of (1) research, (2) teaching and (3) service;
 - Demonstrates the nominee's scholarly distinction as it relates to community-engaged scholarship, for example: awards, community recognition, media activity, publication (lay and peer-review), exhibits, performance;
 - Demonstrates academically relevant work that simultaneously advances scholarship and is conducted in reciprocal partnership with external entities addressing critical societal issues;
 - Clearly articulates how this award (designation and funds) will enhance the nominee's (1) research, (2) teaching and (3) service; and the nominee's commitment to continuing to be a champion for community-engaged scholarship at UVic.

Adjudication of the award will be based on the complete dossier and will reflect each of the components in the personal statement.

Nominations may stand for three years, however, for your nomination to be considered in a subsequent year (from first application) the nominee must provide:

- An updated CV;
- A written summary (not exceeding two pages, single space, 12 pt. font) of recent accomplishments in community-engaged scholarship in the areas outlined in the personal statement (see above). *You are welcome to situate this activity in the recent pandemic environment if that has presented new conditions for the nominee's work.*

Community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the University and can include non-profit organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, educational institutions, and other institutions. The engaged work can focus on local, regional, Indigenous, national or global issues.



Recipient(s) responsibilities

Recipient(s) are expected to be champions and mentors of community-engaged scholarship within their own faculties and the wider university community, including engagement with the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation. Recipients will be invited to participate in capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives on and off campus and are expected to participate actively in at least one such activity. Further, recipient(s) will be asked to advise on certain institutional directions in community engagement. Successful applicants will be invited to speak at the award ceremony. The awards will be presented annually.

Please direct questions about the award to Dr. Laurene Shields, Executive Director, Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation, at ltsied@uvic.ca.

Complete nominations must be submitted electronically to Leona Downie, Assistant to the Provost, at provasst@uvic.ca **no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 16, 2022.**

The Vice-President Academic and Provost will announce the recipient(s) of the awards.

