Purpose and Background

The University of Victoria (UVic) is deeply committed to community-university engagement, one of the top six priorities identified in our Strategic Framework (2018-2023). UVic is recognized as a national leader in community-university engagement and it is embedded in many activities across our university through teaching, research and 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.

Community-engaged scholarship involves the discovery, integration or synthesis, and application of knowledge 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 lay 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

Policy and procedures

The title, Provost’s Engaged Scholar, will be awarded to tenured faculty members who have achieved great distinction as community-engaged scholars.

¹ Adapted from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, University of Massachusetts.
This year up to two recipients will each receive a one-time award of $10,000 at the beginning of their 5 year term to support their community-engaged teaching and research.

In addition, the recipients will be conferred the title of Provost’s Engaged Scholar which they will hold for 5 years, renewable as long as the faculty member is employed at the University of Victoria and continues to display exemplary community-engaged scholarship.

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.

Each year, the Vice-President Academic and Provost will determine the number of Engaged Scholar awards to be granted.

Procedures

• Nominees must be tenured regular faculty members.

• Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of a dossier documenting exemplary community-engaged scholarship. The dossier should include:

1. A personal statement not exceeding 5 pages (single spaced) addressing how this award would enhance the nominee’s teaching, research and service; and

   a) provide specific evidence documenting the nominee’s academic career that embodies the University of Victoria’s commitment to community-engagement;

   b) includes evidence of the nominee’s scholarly distinction as it relates to community-engaged work;

   c) demonstrates academically relevant work that simultaneously advances scholarship in one or more academic disciplines, is conducted in partnership with external entities, and addresses critical societal issues; and

   d) exhibits a scholarly agenda that incorporates community-based issues within the nominee’s teaching, research and service portfolio;
2. A letter of nomination from the nominee’s Dean;

3. Nominee’s current curriculum vitae; and

4. At least 2 references from community partners.

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) are expected to be champions and mentors of community-engaged scholarship within their own faculties and the wider university and engage with the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation. The Recipient(s) are also required to give a lecture as part of a community-engagement lecture series or other UVic lecture series. Successful applicants will be invited to participate in the award ceremony. For reference, the date for the award ceremony will be either Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. or Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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

Complete nominations must be submitted electronically to Ased Said, Administrator, Provost and Faculty Support, at vpacproj@uvic.ca no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 7, 2018.

The Vice-President Academic and Provost will announce the recipient(s) of the awards by March 2019.