

Reconciliation in Action Award

Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize University of Alberta staff or faculty (Indigenous or non-Indigenous) who demonstrate ongoing and meaningful commitment to supporting Indigenous graduate students, advancing reconciliation, and promoting cultural safety and understanding within the University community.

Funding

One award may be conferred annually. This is a non-monetary recognition award presented by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the annual GSA Awards Night in March.

GSA Policy

This award is in a first year pilot project and has yet to be added to GSA Policy.

Eligibility

All current University of Alberta staff or faculty members (academic or non-academic) who demonstrate a strong and ongoing, meaningful commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous student success are eligible.

Eligible nominees include, but are not limited to: sessional instructors, contract academic staff, professional staff, advisors, support staff, Elders and Knowledge Keepers engaged in university roles.

Nominees must be nominated by a current Indigenous graduate student.

Adjudication Criteria

The Reconciliation in Action Award is adjudicated based on three (3) criteria:

- a. Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, demonstrated through sustained efforts to advance the initiatives in The Braiding Past, Present, and Future: University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan within the University community.
- b. Mentorship and support that promote Indigenous graduate student success, belonging, and cultural safety within academic or professional spaces.
- c. Impact and leadership in fostering reconciliation, equity, and respectful relationships within the University or broader community.

Nominators are encouraged to include impact-based narratives or case examples that show how the nominee's actions have supported Indigenous student wellness, cultural safety, or reconciliation efforts.

Each criterion will be ranked on a scale of 1–5 (5 being the highest). The scores will be combined to determine the nominee's overall rank.

Nomination Requirements

Nominated by a current Indigenous graduate student.

Nominators must seek the nominee's consent before submitting a nomination and ensure nominees are aware of how their information, stories, or examples will be used in the nomination

and award process. Nominators may include specific examples, stories, or descriptions of the nominee's impact on Indigenous student wellness, cultural safety, or reconciliation efforts.

A complete nomination package must include only the following components:

a. A written nomination statement (maximum two pages) prepared by the nominator that addresses the following prompts. Applicants may use single-spaced text, 1-inch margins, and a standard 12-point font, unless accessibility needs require alternatives.

- How does the nominee demonstrate leadership, mentorship, and advocacy that support Indigenous graduate student success?
- In what ways has the nominee contributed to reconciliation and cultural safety at the University or in the broader community?
- What makes this individual stand out? What strengths, values, or qualities make them a positive influence and role model?
- How has the nominee's work or mentorship personally impacted you or other Indigenous Students?

Please sign and date the nomination statement. This submission should focus on the nominee's strengths, impact, and the meaningful relationships they have built in advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

Submission Process

Nomination packages must be submitted to gsavpir@ualberta.ca, fph@ualberta.ca, and igsa@ualberta.ca in a single email.

The subject line of the email must include the nominee's last name, first name, followed by the nominator's last name, first name, and the award title, for example: 'Last Name, First Name and Last Name, First Name – Reconciliation in Action Award'

Incomplete or late nomination packages will not be accepted or adjudicated.

Policy and Procedure

a. Nominations will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness by the current Vice President Indigenous Relations (VPIR), one representative from First Peoples' House (FPH), and one representative from the Core Council (likely the Vice President Internal/External) of the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA).

b. Eligible nominations will be adjudicated jointly by the VPIR, the FPH representative, and the IGSA representative.

c. Results of adjudication will be communicated via email to nominees and nominators.

d. The VPIR will present the award at the GSA Awards Night in March.

Timeline

- Applications open: Same date as GSA Recognition Awards
- Applications close: same closing date as GSA Recognition Awards
- Awards presented: GSA Awards Night in March