2011 Learning & Teaching Excellence Awards

Introduction
Avondale’s mission includes striving toward excellence in scholarship and teaching as well as the integration of intellectual, professional, spiritual and personal values involving contributions by all staff.
In recognition of the diverse contributions made by all staff to the learning experience of our students, Avondale seeks applications for the 2011 Learning & Teaching Excellence Awards.

Purpose
1. The Avondale Awards for Learning & Teaching Excellence recognise the importance of both individual and team contributions to student learning and the significance of this contribution to the success of higher education.
2. The Avondale Awards for Learning & Teaching Excellence are intended to affirm those who make special efforts to excel in facilitating student learning.

Selection Criteria:
Applications for either individual or team awards will be assessed with reference to the following criteria:
1. Implementation of approaches to learning and teaching that motivate, inspire and encourage student learning.
2. Design and development of curriculum, resources or services that support learning outcomes described for either a unit or course.
3. Design and implementation of assessment and feedback processes that enhance learning.
4. Development of principles and processes that respect the learner as an individual.
5. Application of scholarship and innovation to the improvement of learning and teaching.
6. The project, innovation or teaching approach needs to have been applied over a timeframe that will support claims of contributing to student learning.

Assessment Criteria:
In assessing the merits of each application, the following criteria will be applied:
1. The extent to which the supporting evidence substantiates the contribution to learning that is described.
2. The creativity and innovation of the project or resource.
3. The correlation between the innovation and the achievement of enhanced learning.
4. The comprehensive nature of the material provided in support of the application.

Eligibility
Nominations for the awards of excellence are open to academic staff, sessional lecturers and general staff members or teams.
Nominees for awards are not eligible to apply for more than one individual and one team application in any one year.
Winners of individual awards are not eligible for re-application for an individual award for a period of two years.

**Application Procedure**

Applications are to be submitted to the Vice-President (Learning & Teaching) by 5pm on the due date.

Applications will include:

(i) completion of the cover page;

(ii) a one-page CV for applications by an individual and a two-page CV for applications by a team;

(iii) up to four pages of explanation addressing the following:

  A. an overview of the project, approach or innovation;
  B. an explanation of how the application meets the selection criteria;
  C. an explanation of how learning has been enhanced and/or how students have been motivated;
  D. how the evidence supports the application.

(iv) Evidence supporting the application should be appended in an appropriate manner. It may include student reports, research data, peer comments, etc.

(v) The application must be accompanied by two referee reports which endorse the application and which attest to the learning benefits which the application claims.

**Applications close: 5pm, Monday 10th October, 2011**

**Award Selection Procedure**

Applications received by the due date will be examined by the Promotion and Professional Development Committee and a determination of awardees will be based on the degree to which the application addressed the selection criteria and the extent to which the evidence supports the claims made in the application.

**Privacy of Information**

Information provided by applicants will remain confidential in accordance with the relevant legislation.

**Presentation of Awards**

The awards will be presented as part of the 2011 World Teachers’ Day Breakfast on Tuesday 25th October, 2011.

**Appeals and Disputes**

Appeals and disputes will be managed in accordance with existing appeals policies and procedures.

**Value of the Award**

A maximum of two awards will be available in any one year.

Each award comprises a minimum prize of $2,000 and a plaque. The prize is to be utilised for appropriate professional development activity. Award recipients are expected to make a presentation to Avondale staff in which they describe their approach to enhancing learning.