



Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse

Award Purpose

The Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse is presented annually for up to 4 full-time faculty members and up to 4 adjunct faculty or lecturers selected for exceptional professional competence and commitment to helping students succeed. Specifically, these award winners demonstrate a commitment to academic quality, stimulation of intellectual development, and investment with students within and beyond the classroom. The award is given in honor of Ralph M. Besse, who was a Cleveland community leader, champion of higher education and instrumental in founding Tri-C.

Award Highlights:

- Students are the initial driver of the list of nominees.
- Nominees must have at least one faculty/staff recommendation for final eligibility.
- Awards are college-wide, not campus based or discipline specific.
- Lecturers are eligible to receive the Adjunct Award.
- Winners are announced at Fall Convocation.

Number of Awards

- Full-time Faculty: up to four (4) awards
- Adjunct Faculty/Lecturers: up to four (4) awards

Award Gift

Full-time Faculty:

- Monetary award, direct deposited after Convocation
- Engraved plaque
- Travel support to the League for Innovation Conference

Adjunct Faculty/Lecturers:

- Monetary award, direct deposited after Convocation
- Engraved plaque

Selection Criteria

- Evidence of commitment to academic quality
- Evidence of stimulation of intellectual development, and
- Evidence of investment in students within and beyond the classroom

Eligibility

Full-time Faculty:

- Tenure or tenure track faculty
- If a faculty wins the Adjunct Award and in subsequent years becomes tenure track/tenured faculty, they are eligible for the Full-time Award.

Adjunct Faculty/Lecturers:

- Actively taught within current or last academic year at Tri-C
- Minimum of four (4) semesters of teaching experience at Tri-C (does not have to be consecutive)
- Eligible once every five (5) years (if previous winner)
- Staff and administrators who also teach are eligible to receive the award

Nomination Process

1. Students are the initial drivers by submitting nominations for full-time and adjunct faculty.
2. Nominees are vetted based on award eligibility criteria by Adjunct Service Managers and Program Manager of Academic Professional Development, and then reviewed by Campus Presidents and AA/CoE Deans.
3. Eligible nominees are sent forth for the college-wide faculty/staff nomination process.
4. Nominees who receive both student and a faculty/staff nomination(s) are notified for final consideration.
5. Nominees submit their resume, teaching artifact and list of professional development to electronic database.
6. Members of the Full-time and Adjunct/Lecturer Selection Committee review student nominations, faculty/staff nominations, and supporting documents and select the final winners.
7. Final winners sent to Provost, Vice President Academic Affairs, Campus Presidents for final confirmation
8. Winners announced at Fall Convocation.

Nomination #1: Student nomination

Electronic nomination form sent to students enrolled in current academic year with the following questions:

1. How did this person help you to grow intellectually or professionally through their teaching?
2. Describe specific examples of how this person has helped you in and out of the classroom.
3. Describe specifically how this person impacted or inspired you academically or personally.
4. Explain how this person motivated, encouraged, or engaged you through their teaching.
5. Identify one characteristic or quality that makes this person an excellent educator.

Nomination #2: Faculty/staff nomination

Electronic nomination form sent to all faculty, program managers, deans and academic leadership.

1. Describe the nominee's stimulation of intellectual development
2. Explain the nominee's commitment to academic quality
3. Illustrate the nominee's investment in students within and beyond the classroom

Final Nominee Submission/Package

Faculty who receive both a student and a faculty/staff nomination are notified and asked to submit the following:

1. Resume/CV
2. Teaching artifact that demonstrates teaching excellence. Examples may include in-class exercises, learning aids, instructional videos, screen shots in Blackboard, responses to students work, etc.
3. List of professional development activities that demonstrate their commitment to continuous learning

Selection Committees

Full-time Faculty Selection Committee:

- 10 or more previous full-time Besse Award Winners with current full-time faculty status.
- Chaired by 1 or 2 faculty who either volunteer or are recommended by committee.
- Members receive 2 Service Credits for participation. Lead/co-leads receive 4 Service Credits.

Adjunct Faculty/Lecturer Selection Committee:

- Associate Dean – 1
- Previous Adjunct Faculty/Lecturer Besse Award Winners – 2 (or previous FT faculty award winners)
- Program Manager – 2
- Adjunct Services Managers – 2
- Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs – 1
- Co-chaired by 2 Adjunct Service Managers

Selection Rubric

- The Selection Committee(s) evaluate all finalists using an established rubric.

Final Approval

The Selection Committee's final recommendations are sent to the Office of Academic Professional Development and then to Campus Presidents and Provost for final review and consideration.

Award Recognition

All award recipients are recognized at:

- Fall Convocation
- Annual Faculty Colloquium – Besse Award Roundtable
- Provost’s Newsletter, Inside Tri-C, Tri-C Times, The Voice, Campus Newsletters

Full-time faculty will also be recognized at:

- Ohio Magazine’s Excellence in Education program
- Excellence in Teaching Awards at the League for Innovations Conference
- Other TBD

Adjunct faculty/lectures will also be recognized at:

- Annual Adjunct Faculty Conference
- Other TBD

Selection Committee Rubric

See next page.

Selection Rubric

**Excellence in Teaching Award in Honor of Ralph M. Besse
Selection Committee Rubric**

Faculty Nominee _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer instructions: Indicate where the specified qualities are evident in the nominee’s materials by marking an “x” in the appropriate box. If the criterion is demonstrated across multiple items, select all that apply.

	Student Nominations	Faculty/staff Nominations	CV/ Resume	Artifact(s)	Prof. Development
COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC QUALITY					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits strong dedication to the profession and a passion for teaching. Creates a challenging academic climate characterized by high expectations and hard work. Manages a classroom environment that fosters a climate of academic and intellectual integrity. Inspires students to excel through positive reinforcement and real life applications. 					
STIMULATION OF INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates an atmosphere of curiosity and intellectual inquiry. Demonstrates innovative and creative teaching techniques to enhance teaching and learning. Demonstrates student engagement by making content interesting, relevant and applicable. Inspires students to excel through positive reinforcement and personal example. 					
INVESTMENT IN STUDENTS WITHIN & BEYOND THE CLASSROOM					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes the dignity and worth of all students. Creates an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. Demonstrates empathy, patience, understanding and consideration of student needs and challenges. Actively promotes personal, professional and intellectual development of students. 					

Additional comments: