

2023 CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARDS

CAFA is a federation of Academic Staff Associations in Alberta. The five member associations are: The Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta, Athabasca University Faculty Association, Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association, Mount Royal Faculty Association, and the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association. The objectives of the Confederation are to promote the quality of education in the province and to promote the well-being of Alberta universities and their academic staff.

CAFA is inviting nominations for the seventeenth annual CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards. The 2023 Awards received considerable public attention, and we are hoping to build on this success.

CAFA is now offering four Awards:

2023 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award

Recognizing an academic staff member, or group of staff members, who through their research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activities have made an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university.

2023 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award

Recognizing an academic staff member at an early stage of his or her career, who through his or her research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activity has made an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university.

2023 CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award

The purpose of the Award is to recognize an academic staff member who excels in teaching and goes above and beyond in their role as a teacher and makes an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university.

2023 CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award for Precarious Academics **NEW******

The purpose of the Award is to recognize a precarious academic staff member who excels in teaching.

Each Award recipient will receive a cheque for \$2,000 and an original piece of artwork.

Eligibility (Distinguished Academic, Early Career and Teaching)

Nominees must be current members of one of the academic staff associations within CAFA - the AASUA, AUFA, GMUFA, MRFA and ULFA. For a group nomination, a majority of the group members, including the primary researcher or group leader, must be current members of one of the CAFA academic staff associations.

Nominees for the CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award must be no more than eight (8) years beyond the completion of a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification.

Eligible Contributions (Distinguished Academic, Early Career and Teaching)

Any type or form of research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activity, which makes a contribution to the community beyond the university, is eligible for consideration by the Selection Committee. This is especially the case for the CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career and the CAFA Distinguished Academic Award but will be a lesser consideration for the CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award.

For the CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award, the focus will be on pedagogical accomplishments: inside and outside the classroom. These pedagogical accomplishments will be the main consideration for the CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award but teaching achievements will also be taken into lesser consideration for the two Distinguished Academic Awards as well.

In making its decision, the Selection Committee, at its discretion, may also take into account such factors as a nominee's service record, as well as other aspects of his or her professional life (for all three awards).

Award recipients must be willing and able to attend the annual CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards dinner and to make a brief presentation on their research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activity and its contribution to the wider community. The Teaching Award recipient will also present on their teaching accomplishments and pedagogical methods. Some contact with the media may also be required.

Eligibility (CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award for Precarious Faculty)

Nominees must be current members of one of the academic staff associations within CAFA – AASUA, AUFA, GMUFA, MRFA, and ULFA. They must be precariously employed academics. Broadly, this means a contract that has limited job security relative to tenured faculty – a limited-term or contingent appointment.

Their duties must include teaching or teaching-adjacent activities (lecturing, preparing teaching materials, pedagogical design or review).

Specifically, individuals in the following categories of employment at each institution are eligible:

AASUA:	Academic Teaching Staff (ATS)
ULFA:	Sessional instructors, Term-limited position (instructor/professorial)
GMUFA:	Sessionals
MRFA:	Fixed Term, Continuing and Sessional Instructors, Contract Laboratory Instructor, Contract Clinical Instructor
AUFA:	Term limited professoriate, academic coordinator

Beyond this, applicants may have other precarious appointments at member or non-member institutions: as long as the individual teaches (as precarious academic staff) at one of CAFA's institutions, they are encouraged to include all of their non-CAFA institution's precarious employment in their application.

The 2023 CAFA Awards Dinner will take place in Edmonton on Thursday, September 14th, 2023.

Nominations (a signed pdf copy of the package should be e-mailed to lori.morinville@ualberta.ca)

All Nominations for the Awards must include the following:

1) A completed [Nomination Form](#):

[Link to Nomination Form](#)

2) A [Nomination Letter](#) (**please limit to one page**): Nominations from any source are welcome. *Academic Awards* - describing specifically how the research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activity of the nominee(s) have made a contribution to the community beyond the university. *Teaching Award* – describe the contribution of the nominee towards their students and

the broader community. ***Precarious Teaching Award*** – describe the contribution to teaching in the classroom only, as CAFA is aware that many precarious-employed academics are pressured to perform non-teaching work even when their contracts do not include research, service, or supervision. CAFA does not intend to reward exploitation by employers, nor to encourage academics to submit to such exploitation.

The work of the Selection Committee is dependent on the quality and completeness of the information it receives in the Nomination Letters.

3) Two (2) Letters of Reference (please limit each letter to one page).

For the academic awards the Letters of Reference should be from persons qualified to comment on the research, teaching and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activity of the nominee(s), and the contribution it has made to the community outside the university.

For the teaching awards – At least one of the reference letters must be from an academic colleague, but the second one can be from another source that you think best fits your application (including students, outside agencies, etc.). For the Teaching Award, the letters should address your teaching contributions both inside and outside the classroom, as well as relevant information on your teaching philosophy, innovative pedagogical methods, and curriculum design. For the Precarious-Teaching Award, the letters should focus on the contributions that you have inside your sessional contracts, and not additional non-contracted work you do for the institution. This should include your teaching philosophy, pedagogical methods, and curriculum design that you use in your contract teaching appointments.

4) The current CV (last 5 years of information) of the nominee(s).

Nominations for the CAFA Awards must be received by April 28, 2023.

Selection Process

The Selection Committee consists of the president of CAFA, as Chair, and the presidents of the four CAFA member associations – AASUA, AUFA, GMUFA, MUFA and ULFA, or their designates. (The Executive Director of CAFA, ex-officio, sits as a (non-voting) member of the Committee.)

Selection of the CAFA Distinguished Academic Award for Precarious Faculty will be selected by a committee of four precarious teaching staff, appointed by CAFA member associations that have precarious academic staff (AASUA, GMUFA, MRFA, & ULFA). The committee will be chaired by the CAFA president or, if that is not possible, another member of the CAFA Executive. The committee will meet in person or online. Their decision will be made no later than two weeks after the CAFA retreat.

The Selection Committees may deliberate, consult, and arrive at their decisions, as they shall determine, subject to the Terms of Reference of the CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards. The decisions of the Selection Committees are final.

Award recipients will be selected by May 17, 2023.

Recipients

Travel and hotel expenses for Award recipients attending the Awards dinner will be paid by CAFA. For more information, please visit the CAFA website at www.cafa-ab.ca or contact Lori Morinville, Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, (780) 492-5630 or (780) 232-6812. e-mail: lori.morinville@ualberta.ca