
McCAIG-KILLAM TEACHING AWARD

The Killam Scholarship and Prize Programs were established in memory of Izaak Walton Killam through the Will of his wife, Dorothy Johnston Killam, and through gifts made during her lifetime. Their primary purpose is to support advanced education and research at five Canadian Universities including the University of Calgary.

Ann McCaig is a passionate community advocate, skilled businesswoman and past Chancellor of the University of Calgary. With the heart, wisdom and lifelong commitment for transforming education and in recognition of her 22 years of service as a Killam Trustee, Canada's Killam Trust has named the McCaig-Killam Teaching Award in her honour.

1. PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

Teaching and learning are central activities at a University. It is recognized through awards programs at multiple levels in the institution through department, Faculty and University awards. The McCaig-Killam Teaching Award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to teaching, learning, educational leadership, and mentorship at the University. The recipient will receive a prize of \$5,000 and a commemorative certificate at the annual Killam Reception.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The McCaig-Killam Teaching Award is open to academic staff with teaching commitments as part of their academic work at the University of Calgary. Previous winners of the McCaig-Killam Teaching Award, Killam Award for Excellence in Teaching, or Killam Award for Leadership in Teaching are not eligible.

While Faculty members may be nominated for multiple University of Calgary Killam Awards in a given year, scholars are only eligible to receive one University of Calgary Killam Award per year. This includes the Killam Memorial Chairs, Killam Annual Professor Award, Emerging Research Leader Awards, Research Excellence Award, Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award, Undergraduate Mentorship Award, and the McCaig-Killam Teaching Award. This provision is in place to ensure that UCalgary can recognize as many deserving scholars as possible each year.

No individual may be awarded the prize more than once.

3. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The University of Calgary is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive campus and recognizes that diverse faculty, staff, students, and alumni benefit and enrich the work, teaching, learning and research experiences of the entire campus and broader community. We are committed to removing barriers that have been, and continue

to be, encountered by equity-deserving groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+.

The Killam Selection Committee reflects this commitment in its composition and deliberations. Nominators must also consider equity, diversity, and inclusion of eligible faculty from all equity-deserving groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+.

The gender quota for the Killam Research & Teaching Awards program is paused for the 2025 competition to ensure award processes and data collection align with the [UCalgary EDI Data Operating Standard](#). While the formal quota is paused, nominators are expected to nominate a diverse range of nominees. This includes both representational diversity and diversity in philosophy, perspective, disciplinary fields, ways of knowing, and theoretical and methodological variations. The chair and vice-chair of the Killam Selection Committee may choose to solicit additional nominations at their discretion.

4. CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

Demonstrated excellence in teaching, mentorship and leadership supported by evidence of impact. There are three areas where excellence and impact must be demonstrated for this award: 1) creating learning experiences that best support student learning at the undergraduate or graduate level, 2) mentoring students and/or colleagues, and 3) demonstrating educational leadership within the unit, institution, or field of study / discipline (i.e., sharing of teaching, learning and mentorship practices and expertise with a broader community).

Critical Factors:

- Evidence of impact of the nominee's teaching, mentorship and educational leadership on student learning.
- Evidence of significant and sustained impact in educational leadership, which goes beyond one's own teaching and mentorship practice.

5. NOMINATIONS

The Selection Committee welcomes nominations from Deans. A maximum of three nominations for this award are invited from the Cumming School of Medicine and the Faculty of Arts; a maximum of two nominations from the Schulich School of Engineering and Faculty of Science; a maximum of one nomination for each award is invited from each of the other Faculties.

Nomination Letter (5 page maximum):

- a) A comprehensive nomination letter from the Dean or Designate that provides an overview of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in: 1) creating environments that support student learning and growth, 2) mentoring and engaging undergraduate and/or graduate students in research and scholarship, and 3) demonstrating educational leadership within the unit, institution, and discipline. Strong nomination letters clearly address these award criteria and provide specific examples that provide an illustrative case and demonstrate impact beyond the nominee's dossier.

Nomination Dossier (25 page maximum, including appendices):

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- a) A statement of teaching philosophy which highlights the nominee's beliefs and approaches to teaching, student learning, mentorship, and educational leadership.
- b) A description of the nominee's most important contributions to teaching and student learning, mentorship, and educational leadership, providing relevant context on the nominee's teaching philosophy and practices. This section should include a reflective summary of example strategies, initiatives, and outcomes which illustrate excellence and impact. The dossier should summarize and provide evidence of the impact of:
 - i. specific teaching and mentorship strategies used to support student learning and scholarly development and create equitable and inclusive learning environments,
 - ii. exemplary course materials and teaching innovations,
 - iii. course and curriculum development activities,
 - iv. the outcomes of undergraduate and/or graduate student research and scholarship,
 - v. specific educational leadership initiatives and activities that have had a significant impact on teaching and student learning within the unit, institution, and discipline.
- c) A summary of student feedback from a range of academic courses or initiatives. It is recognized that these data may not be available or appropriate, depending upon the learning context (e.g., in small class sizes or in courses with sections taught by multiple instructors). This summary should include a brief reflection and analysis to put these data in context, to summarize how this information speaks to the nominee's strengths and areas of improvement and what they have learned and adjusted as a result and highlight how they connect back to the nominee's teaching philosophy and practices.
- d) Other information or data which provide evidence of excellence in teaching, student learning, mentorship and educational leadership and substantiate the claims made may be included.

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The closing date for the submission of nominations to the Research Services Office is **May 25** each year. Should the deadline fall on a weekend, nominations may be submitted by the end of the next business day. (Therefore the deadline in the 2025 competition year is **May 26, 2025** as May 25 falls on a weekend.)

[New in 2025] – The Faculty's research facilitator, awards staff, or Dean/Associate Dean (Research) must submit to Research Services using the UCalgary Killam Awards Webform by [clicking "Submit a Nomination" on this page](#). Ensure that a **single PDF document** containing all the nomination materials is submitted.

7. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

A subcommittee of the Killam Selection Committee will adjudicate the McCaig-Killam Teaching Award. The subcommittee shall consist of the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) or a delegate as chair, a graduate student, an undergraduate student, two academic staff members appointed by the Killam Advisory Committee, and a representative from the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

The Research Services Office will contact award recipients and nominating Deans confidentially in September and the public announcement will take place at the annual Killam Reception in October.

8. CONTACT

McCaig-Killam Teaching Award

Direct any inquiries to the Research Services Office: researchawards@ucalgary.ca