Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy

Purpose

This award seeks to promote, recognise and reward outstanding contributions to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strategy at the University of Sydney. It is not awarded every year and is in addition to the Indigenous Education strategic bonus awards offered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services (DVC ISS) as part of the Vice Chancellor’s Outstanding Teaching, Research Higher Degree Supervision and Support for Student Learning schemes.

Nature

The Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy award is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff of the University of Sydney. Nominees must demonstrate an outstanding contribution to the University’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strategy. This could include, but is not limited to the following:
1. Excellence in the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as a cohort.
2. Excellence in the design and/or teaching of courses or units in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues are a major focus.
3. Excellence in the embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives within a unit of study or degree course.
4. Excellence in promoting and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students’ university learning and engagement.
5. Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research.
6. Excellence in developing university engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
7. Excellence in leadership, strategy support or policy development.

Recommendations for awards will be made by a committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services to the Vice-Chancellor. Winners will be awarded a sum of $10,000. Certificates will be presented to awardees at an appropriate ceremony.

Award winners may be required to contribute to publicising their contributions for example through Teaching@Sydney, or participate in other academic development activities.

For publicity purposes, winners will also need to provide a photograph and a summary in 100 words or less of their achievements within six weeks of the results being announced. Winners will be required to make their application available to unsuccessful applicants and intending applicants.

Scope

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education award is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff of the University of Sydney. All members of the University Community who make a significant contribution to the goals of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strategy are eligible to apply either as individuals or as a group. At least two years of service is necessary for eligibility as an individual applicant.

A group application may include one or more members who do not have the requisite number of year of service. Previous winners who received awards more than three years ago are eligible to apply. Previously unsuccessful applicants are also eligible to apply. Applicants applying for other Vice-Chancellors teaching awards are eligible to apply also for the Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy award.
Criteria

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of evidence presented in their written applicants that supports their claims for the excellence of their contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education; in relation to the following criteria:

1. **Significance of contribution** (e.g. relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education priorities and challenges, numbers of students reached, lasting impact on learners and the community, sustainability etc.)

2. **Quality of contribution** (evidence and recognition of high quality processes and contribution to promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education scholarly significant etc.)

Selection Committee

The Committee is appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services. The Award will be supported and administered by the Office of the DVC ISS. Support for applicants will be available from the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services.

Application

An application of no more than 9 pages in total, must be submitted electronically to the Office of the DVC ISS, as follows:
- completed and signed Application Form including cover page (2 pages)
- one page overview (1 page)
- two page statement addressing the two selection criteria (2 pages)
- two Referees’ Report in support of the application (1 page each = 2 pages)
- a Curriculum Vitae of no more than two A4 pages outlining the applicant’s educational qualifications, career history, teaching positions and teaching experience (2 pages).

Further Information

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