2023 Research Excellence Award

The **Research Excellence Awards (REA)** are prestigious awards granted annually to recognize up to three tenured and/or tenure track faculty members for their outstanding contributions and achievements in research while at Ontario Tech University.

1. Eligibility Criteria and Award Categories

All current tenured and tenure-track faculty members who have been at Ontario Tech for at least one year are eligible to be nominated. Nominations may be submitted individually or collectively by current tenured or tenure-track faculty members, including Faculty Deans. Permission should be sought from the potential nominee before submission. Self-nominations are welcome. In addition, each nomination must be endorsed by two current Ontario Tech faculty members. Endorsements can be obtained from any Ontario Tech tenured or tenure-track faculty member. Faculty members may not endorse more than one nomination in each category. Faculty members may only receive each category of award once.

- **Emerging Researchers:** Individuals **within the first six (6) years** of their first independent academic appointment and are pre-tenured. This award recognizes both early excellence in research and future promise.

- **Mid-career Researchers:** Individuals who are **between the seventh and twelfth (7-12) years** of their first independent academic appointment. This award recognizes recently established research programs that are opening up new fields or insights of inquiry.

- **Established Researchers:** Individuals who are **beyond the twelfth (12) year** of their first independent academic appointment (i.e. 13th year and beyond). These awards recognize recent national and/or international leadership in research in the last 6 years. These awards are not intended to be career research awards.

The following apply to all three categories:
- The time since first academic appointment for each category will be considered as of July 1 of the competition year
- Only CV contributions **over the last 6 years** will be considered (i.e. six years prior to July 1 of the competition year). Nominations will need to highlight achievements of the Nominee over this timeframe as well. **Note:** Career interruptions will extend the 6-year eligible contributions window (see below).
- Career interruptions (e.g., maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training and family care) that occurred after a nominee's first independent academic appointment will be considered. For all leaves except professional leaves (such as training-related, sabbatical, and administrative-related leaves)
    - Eligibility window for calculation of status:
        - the eligibility window is extended by twice the length of the leave (e.g. 5 months of leaves are counted as 10 months)

- o Eligibility window for contributions:
  - ▪ include contributions from their most recent active research period prior to the last six years **for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave**

- An independent academic position is a position that:
  - o is a university faculty appointment (tenured or tenure-track);
  - o requires that the researcher engages in research that is not under the direction of another individual;
  - o authorizes the researcher to supervise or co-supervise the research of students registered in an undergraduate or graduate degree program, or postdoctoral fellows.

2. Public Recognition and Value of the Award

Up to three awards (one in each category) will be presented annually. The budget for each competition year is $3,000, which will be distributed amongst the awards. If there are 3 awards, each awardee will receive $1,000. If there are fewer than 3 awards, the $3,000 will be split proportionately between the awardees. The award will be contributed to the recipient's internal research account, and will include a recognition plaque. Each award winner will give a public presentation to the University and the broader community.

3. REA Review Committee

A multidisciplinary selection committee will be drawn from the Ontario Tech University Research Committee membership to adjudicate the nominations. Committee members will be selected by the Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI), ensuring that there are no conflicts of interest. The VPRI will act as Chair of the REA Review Committee. An Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) advisor will also be appointed to the review committee by the VPRI. Where necessary, the VPRI will consider adding ad hoc members to ensure a thorough review of candidates.

Ontario Tech is committed to fostering a collegial culture grounded in equity, diversity and inclusiveness and the review process will be reflective of these ideals. Achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research enterprise at Ontario Tech University is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding, and to respond to local, national and global challenges. As such, the REA Review Committee will be required to undergo unconscious bias training prior to application review. Please consult the Tri-Agency Guide for Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research for more information.

4. Nomination Review Process and Award Criteria

Nominations are evaluated by a multi-disciplinary REA Review Committee. The REA Review Committee will make recommendations to the VPRI who will make the final selection of the REA recipients.

The Nomination Review Process is comprised of two-stages. In the first stage, the REA Review Committee will review all nominations and create a shortlist of finalists for each category. The shortlist of finalists for each category is recommended to the VPRI. If the review committee determines that a suitable nominee cannot be found, they are not obliged to recommend any of the nominees. In the second stage, the VPRI will select from among the nominated candidates one honoree for each category. The VPRI will consider all research, scholarly and innovative contributions, but will pay particular attention to work undertaken by the candidates while employed at Ontario Tech University. In exceptional circumstances, the VPRI may choose two candidates from one category or may choose not to nominate anyone for an award. The VPRI will notify all nominees of the results when deliberations are complete. Decisions of the VPRI are final.

The REA Review Committee will evaluate the candidates' nominations using the criteria listed below, taking into account the discipline, stage of career for each category and research context of each nominee. The candidate will also be provided with an opportunity to disclose special circumstances/considerations that have impacted their research.

- Scholarly accomplishments and research contributions (**50%**)
    - Research monographs, peer-reviewed articles in quality journals appropriate for the field of research, grants for scholarship, patents, creative works, research contributions that are acknowledged to be major advances, influences or transformations;
- HQP training record (**20%**)
    - Contributions to the training of undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows;
- Impact of research (**20%**)
    - Impact of research on the discipline and on society and recognition for research accomplishments by professional societies or others that have benefited;
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (**10%**)
    - Contributions to the promotion of equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise.
    - Contributions to supporting equity and inclusion in recruitment practices, curriculum, supporting diverse students, mentorship approaches, and initiatives aimed at ensuring an inclusive research and training environment and trainee growth.
    - **Important:** trainee demographic data is not requested, nor required to assess impacts related to equity, diversity and inclusion in the research and training environment

5. Appeals

All decisions regarding the selection of award recipients are final. The VPRI will not consider any appeals to the process.

6. Submission Requirements

The nomination package includes:

a. Nomination Form: Complete nomination form (including endorsements, list of three external referees, and Dean's signature). **Note:** Each nominee is required to provide a list of three suggested external referees that may be contacted by the VPRI, should the committee request this information to aid in the adjudication process.

b. Supplemental Information Form: Attachment that provides additional context to the Research Committee. Provides information regarding discipline specific conventions and an optional special circumstances statement/background section.

c. Nomination Letter (up to 4 pages): A detailed letter (up to 4 pages) from the nominator(s) summarizing the candidate's research achievements and outlining the national or international significance of the candidate's scholarly work. Self-nominations are welcome. The letter must clearly identify how the nominee meets the award evaluation criteria and should be written in plain language. Please refer to the nomination letter instructions. **Note:** the letter will need to highlight achievements of the Nominee over the last 6 years. If a Nominee has eligible career interruptions, the 6-year eligible contributions window will be extended for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave.

d. Candidate's CV: Only the SSHRC CV, NSERC Form 100 or Common CV formats will be accepted. NOTE: A version of the CCV labeled 'DRAFT' will be accepted. **Note:** Only CV contributions over the last 6 years will be considered (i.e. six years prior to July 1 of the competition year). Eligible career interruptions will extend the 6-year eligible contributions window for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave.

7. Nomination Deadline

Complete nomination packages must be submitted by 11:59pm on **May 12, 2023.**

Submit one complete electronic copy (one pdf file) to: joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca

Questions?

Contact Joanne Hui, Grants Officer, joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca

8. Timeline

- Program Launch: April 10, 2023
- Complete nomination packages due: May 12, 2023
- Decisions: June 2023
- Start Date of Award: July 1, 2023