Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards
Nomination Package

The **Student Leadership Awards** celebrate the outstanding contributions of Ontario Tech students and align with the university's institutional priorities. These awards highlight the vision, mission and values of Ontario Tech while recognizing students as engaged citizen leaders with entrepreneurial mindsets who inspire, lead and make a lasting impact.

The awards not only honour exceptional achievements but also showcase students' contributions toward advancing Ontario Tech's strategic priorities:

- **Creating a sticky campus:** Fostering inclusive, student- and community-centric engagement.

- **Learning re-imagined:** Contributing to dynamic, flexible learning experiences and advancing knowledge.

- **Partnerships:** Driving innovative solutions through purposeful collaboration with industry, community, government and academic partners.

- **Tech with a conscience:** Innovating to improve lives and the planet through ethical technology use.

The President's Award represents the highest honour, awarded to one undergraduate and one graduate student. These recipients exemplify excellence across all four categories, embodying the university's values—integrity, inclusion, intellectual resilience and innovation—and setting a standard of leadership for the university and beyond.

Before you begin a nomination

To ensure a successful nomination process, please follow these guidelines:

Confirm eligibility

Ensure the student you wish to nominate meets the eligibility criteria for the selected award (see eligibility details below).

Gather required information

Collect the following details about the nominee:

- Full Name (first and last)

- Student ID

- Ontario Tech email address (@ontariotechu.net)

- Faculty and program

- Expected graduation date

- Level of studies at the time of nomination:
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate (Master's or PhD)

Prepare a strong nomination
Review the award description and criteria to craft a nomination that highlights how the student has demonstrated the qualities outlined in the award criteria.

Important notes

- **Who can nominate:** Current faculty, staff and students of Ontario Tech University may nominate one or more eligible students for these awards.

- **Multiple nominations:** Nominators are encouraged to submit nominations for multiple students and across different award categories.

Your thoughtful nomination contributes to celebrating student leadership and showcasing the impact Ontario Tech students make within the university and beyond.

Register and nominate using Judgify

Step one: Start your nomination

1. Visit the [Student Leadership Awards and Recognition website](#).

2. Browse the list of awards and select the award you wish to nominate for. You will be redirected to the Judgify platform.

Step two: Register or log in to Judgify

- New users: Register for a free account at [Judgify registration](#).
  - Select **submit** to create your account (**Please note**: You only need to register once).

- Returning users: Log in with your credentials. Once logged in, you will be directed to the nomination form for the selected award.

Completing the nomination form

1. **Required fields:**
   - Fill in all required fields, including the nominee's name, student number, and email address.

   - Ensure the information is accurate.

2. **Nomination details:**
   - Write a nomination that is 500 to 750 words to showcase how the nominee meets the award criteria effectively.

   - **Do not** use the nominee's name in the narrative portion of the nomination; instead, use "nominee" and/or pronouns (e.g., he, she, they) to ensure an unbiased selection process.

   - Provide specific examples and details that highlight how the nominee demonstrates the qualities of the award.

3. **Saving progress:**
   - If you cannot complete the form in one session, select **save as draft** to save your progress.

   - Saved drafts can be accessed from your Judgify profile by selecting **complete submission** to finish and submit.

4. **Submit the nomination:**
   - When the form is complete, select **submit**.

   - After submission, you will be directed to the submission page where you can view all completed nominations.

Notice of Collection

Personal information is collected under the authority of the *University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act* and in accordance with Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Information is used to administer the Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards and is accessible only to authorized staff. Identifying information is redacted during adjudication wherever possible. Information collected through Judgify is deleted at the end of each awards cycle.

Questions may be directed to engagement@ontariotechu.ca or the Access and Privacy Office at accessandprivacy@ontariotechu.ca.

Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards
Award Descriptions and Criteria

The following section provides an overview of each Ontario Tech Student Leadership Award, including descriptions and evaluation criteria. Reviewing this information in advance will help nominators select the most appropriate award and prepare a thoughtful, well-aligned nomination. Clear alignment with the criteria supports a fair and transparent review process.

Tech with a Conscience Award

The **Tech with a Conscience Award** recognizes students who embody Ontario Tech's commitment to improving lives and the planet through ethical technology. This award honours those who integrate fairness, critical thinking, and a positive social impact into their academic and community work. Recipients of this award demonstrate a commitment to ethical technology practices, considering social and environmental implications while applying technology to address real-world challenges and promote well-being on campus and beyond.

Award eligibility	Award criteria
Undergraduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 to be considered for an award. Graduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered for an award.	The **Tech with a Conscience Award** celebrates students who integrate ethical technology practices into their academic and community activities, with a focus on fairness, critical thinking, and the positive impact of their work. ● Demonstrates a commitment to ethical tech use, ensuring fairness, equity, and inclusion in projects or research involving technology. ● Demonstrates innovative solutions in identifying problems or processes. ● How they have applied their creative perspective to inspire, shape, or develop ideas that address these challenges in new and impactful ways. ● Shows awareness of the social and environmental implications of technology, actively considering its broader impact. ● Applies technology to enhance or solve real-world challenges on campus or in the community, promoting well-being for individuals or the planet. ● Exemplifies critical thinking and a conscientious approach in their academic and extracurricular technology-related initiatives.

Sticky Campus Award

The **Sticky Campus Award** recognizes students who are dedicated to building an inclusive and connected campus community. This award honours individuals who lead with empathy and inclusivity, creating welcoming spaces where all students feel valued. Recipients foster a sense of belonging by actively engaging in or organizing initiatives that promote equity, respect, and meaningful relationships, making a lasting, positive impact on the Ontario Tech campus culture.

Award eligibility	Award criteria
Undergraduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 to be considered for an award. Graduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered for an award.	The **Sticky Campus Award** honours students who create a welcoming, inclusive campus environment and build strong, positive connections among peers. ● Leads inclusively, fostering a supportive and respectful environment for all students. ● Demonstrates a commitment to equity and diversity, ensuring all voices are heard and valued in campus activities. ● Actively builds a sense of belonging, contributing to community-building initiatives that enhance campus life. ● Positively impacts peers by organizing or supporting programs that connect students and create lasting, meaningful relationships.

Learning Re-imagined Award

The **Learning Re-imagined Award** celebrates students who drive their own educational journeys with innovation and initiative, embracing diverse and hands-on learning experiences. Recipients of this award pursue growth beyond the classroom, actively engaging in projects, fieldwork, or research that supports their academic and career goals. These students demonstrate a commitment to personal development through both online and in-person opportunities, seeking out or creating learning pathways that foster meaningful advancement and reflect a passion for lifelong learning.

Award eligibility	Award criteria
Undergraduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 to be considered for an award. Graduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered for an award.	The **Learning Re-imagined Award** acknowledges students who engage in innovative learning experiences, advocating for diverse educational pathways and meaningful personal growth. ● Actively pursues learning experiences beyond the classroom, including hands-on projects, fieldwork, or research. ● Engages in both online and in-person activities that support a comprehensive educational experience and reflect a commitment to self-improvement. ● Demonstrates initiative in creating or seeking out learning pathways that align with personal and professional goals. ● Promotes and participates in experiential learning or entrepreneurship activities that broaden their academic and career perspectives.

Partnerships Award

The **Partnerships Award** celebrates students who contribute to impactful collaborations with community, industry, or academic partners. Honouring those who engage in partnerships that address real-world challenges, this award recognizes students who bring innovative ideas, leadership, and a commitment to global responsibility to these projects. Recipients professionally represent Ontario Tech, actively participating in collaborative efforts that promote personal growth, solve complex problems, and reinforce the university's mission for positive societal impact.

Award eligibility	Award criteria
Undergraduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 to be considered for an award. Graduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered for an award.	The Partnerships Award recognizes students who contribute meaningfully to university partnerships, helping to address significant challenges through collaboration and applied learning. ● Professionally represents Ontario Tech in partnerships with external organizations or communities. ● Actively engages in partnerships initiated by the university, enhancing both their personal growth and Ontario Tech's reputation. ● Shows leadership in collaborative projects, contributing innovative ideas that help solve complex problems or improve well-being. ● Demonstrates a commitment to sustainable practices and global responsibility in partnership activities, reflecting the university's mission for positive societal impact.

The President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership

The **President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership** is Ontario Tech University's highest honour, presented annually to two graduating students—one undergraduate or professional student and one graduate student—who demonstrate outstanding leadership across all four award categories: Tech with a Conscience, Learning Re-imagined, Creating a Sticky Campus, and Partnerships.

Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify the university's mission to prepare future leaders who solve complex problems and reflect the core values of integrity, inclusion, intellectual resilience, and innovation. These students set a standard of excellence through their holistic contributions, embodying the spirit of Ontario Tech's vision while creating a lasting impact within the university and beyond.

Award eligibility	Award criteria
Undergraduate students must be in their final year of study at the time of nomination Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 to be considered for an award Graduate students can be in any year of study at the graduate level Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered for an award	The **President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership** recognizes undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate outstanding leadership across all four award categories: 1. **Tech with a conscience:** Innovating to improve lives and the planet through ethical use and development of technology. 2. **Learning re-imagined:** Advancing dynamic, flexible learning experiences and contributing to knowledge creation. 3. **Creating a sticky campus:** Fostering inclusive, student- and community-centric engagement opportunities. 4. **Partnerships:** Driving innovative solutions through meaningful collaboration with industry, community, government, and academic partners. In addition to their holistic contributions across all categories, awardees reflect the university's core values: ● **Integrity:** Demonstrating equity, fairness, and ethics in all pursuits. ● **Inclusion:** Fostering a community of belonging, valuing diversity, and eradicating discrimination and hate. ● **Intellectual Resilience:** Excelling through respectful engagement with diverse perspectives and constructive problem-solving. ● **Innovation:** Inspiring transformative ideas through curiosity, creativity, and growth.

Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards
Rubrics and Scoring

The Student Leadership Awards evaluation rubrics are designed to support a **fair, consistent, and transparent review process** across all nominations. Nominators are encouraged to review the rubrics carefully when preparing submissions to ensure nominations clearly address the award criteria and provide meaningful, specific evidence of the nominee's achievements and impact.

How the rubrics work

Each criterion is assessed using a **5-point scoring scale**, for a maximum total of **20 points per nomination**. The rubric descriptions reflect key anchor points on the scale. **Scores of 2 or 4 may be used when the evidence falls between the described levels**.

- **5 – Exceptional:** Far exceeds expectations with outstanding, compelling evidence
- **4 – Strong:** Clearly meets the criterion with significant evidence of impact
- **3 – Satisfactory:** Meets the criterion with adequate and relevant evidence
- **2 – Minimal:** Meets some aspects of the criterion but with limited evidence
- **1 – Insufficient:** Does not meet the criterion or lacks sufficient evidence

Overall scoring guidance
- **16–20 points:** Exceptional candidate
- **12–15 points:** Strong candidate
- **Below 12 points:** Needs improvement

Top three nominations and final selection

After the initial scoring, the top three nominations in each award category will advance to the finalist round, where the Ontario Tech Student Leadership Awards selection committee will conduct a final review. The committee will uphold Ontario Tech's mission and values to ensure a fair, transparent and mission-aligned process in selecting the final award recipients.

The selection committee comprises five members from various campus roles:
- Faculty member (Academic)
- Student Services representatives
- Representative from the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Nominee notification and award ceremony
- All nominees will be notified of their nomination via their Ontario Tech student email.
- The top three finalists from each award category will be invited to attend the award ceremony.
- Winners will be announced and celebrated at the event

Tech with a Conscience Award

The **Tech with a Conscience Award** recognizes students who embody Ontario Tech's commitment to improving lives and the planet through ethical technology. This award honours those who integrate fairness, critical thinking, and a positive social impact into their academic and community work. Recipients of this award demonstrate a commitment to ethical technology practices, considering social and environmental implications while applying technology to address real-world challenges and promote well-being on campus and beyond.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Ethical technology use	Demonstrates fairness, equity and inclusion in the ethical application of technology.	Consistently demonstrates fairness, equity and inclusion in ethical technology applications; sets a clear example for peers.	Often incorporates fairness, equity and inclusion in technology applications, with occasional gaps in consistency.	Rarely demonstrates fairness, equity, or inclusion in technology applications; lacks clarity or consistency in approach.
Innovative problem-solving	Develops creative approaches to address challenges, solve problems, or improve processes.	Develops highly innovative and creative approaches to solve problems or improve processes, yielding significant impact.	Demonstrates some innovation and creativity in addressing challenges, with moderate impact.	Shows limited innovation or creativity in problem-solving; solutions lack originality or significant impact.
Social and environmental awareness	Considers the broader social and environmental implications of technology use.	Demonstrates strong awareness and consistently integrates social and environmental considerations into academic and community activities.	Shows some awareness of social and environmental implications, integrating them into activities occasionally.	Limited or no evidence of considering social and environmental implications in activities.
Real-world application	Applies technology to solve real-world challenges with tangible benefits to individuals or communities.	Applies technology effectively to solve real-world challenges, resulting in clear, positive outcomes for individuals or the community.	Uses technology to address challenges, with some positive outcomes evident but limited in scope or consistency.	Rarely applies technology to solve challenges; outcomes are unclear or lack meaningful impact.

Sticky Campus Award

The **Sticky Campus Award** recognizes students who are dedicated to building an inclusive and connected campus community. This award honours individuals who lead with empathy and inclusivity, creating welcoming spaces where all students feel valued. Recipients foster a sense of belonging by actively engaging in or organizing initiatives that promote equity, respect, and meaningful relationships, making a lasting, positive impact on the Ontario Tech campus culture.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Inclusive leadership	Demonstrates leadership by fostering a supportive and respectful environment for all students.	Consistently creates inclusive spaces; empowers diverse voices in leadership and collaboration.	Frequently demonstrates inclusivity; supports diverse participation with some gaps in consistency.	Occasionally demonstrates inclusivity but lacks consistent impact.
Commitment to equity and diversity	Actively promotes equity and ensures all voices are heard and valued in campus activities.	Advocates for equity and diversity; implements initiatives that prioritize marginalized voices and perspectives.	Supports equity and diversity in initiatives; shows awareness but may lack significant impact.	Limited effort to promote equity or address diverse perspectives.
Sense of belonging	Builds a sense of belonging through initiatives that enhance campus community.	Regularly organizes or participates in initiatives fostering strong community connections and a welcoming culture.	Engages in activities promoting community but may show limited initiative or scope.	Minimal participation in fostering community or creating belonging.
Positive peer impact	Organizes or supports programs that create meaningful connections among students.	Consistently initiates impactful programs; inspires peers and builds enduring relationships.	Participates in peer engagement initiatives; makes a moderate impact on creating connections.	Limited involvement in programs; minimal impact on peers or connections.

Learning Re-imagined Award

The **Learning Re-imagined Award** celebrates students who drive their own educational journeys with innovation and initiative, embracing diverse and hands-on learning experiences. Recipients of this award pursue growth beyond the classroom, actively engaging in projects, fieldwork, or research that supports their academic and career goals. These students demonstrate a commitment to personal development through both online and in-person opportunities, seeking out or creating learning pathways that foster meaningful advancement and reflect a passion for lifelong learning.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Pursuit of learning beyond the classroom	Actively engages in hands-on projects, fieldwork, or research to enhance educational and career goals.	Consistently seeks out and excels in diverse learning experiences beyond the classroom, with significant impact.	Participates in out-of-class learning activities; shows growth and moderate contributions.	Minimal involvement in learning opportunities outside the classroom.
Engagement across learning modalities	Combines online and in-person learning opportunities to foster self-improvement and comprehensive growth.	Actively integrates both modalities to enhance educational outcomes and demonstrates significant self-growth.	Participates in a mix of online and in-person activities; moderate contribution to self-improvement.	Limited engagement with diverse learning formats or focus on self-growth.
Initiative in crafting learning pathways	Creates or seeks out opportunities aligned with personal and professional aspirations.	Demonstrates creativity and drive in establishing meaningful and goal-oriented learning experiences.	Seeks opportunities that align with goals; some evidence of initiative and strategic planning.	Rarely takes initiative in pursuing learning opportunities or aligning them with goals.
Commitment to experiential learning and innovation	Engages in experiential learning or entrepreneurship activities to expand academic and career horizons.	Fully embraces experiential learning; demonstrates innovative thinking and impactful contributions.	Engages in experiential activities with some evidence of innovation and contribution.	Limited participation in experiential learning; minimal evidence of innovation.

Partnerships Award

The **Partnerships Award** celebrates students who contribute to impactful collaborations with community, industry, or academic partners. Honouring those who engage in partnerships that address real-world challenges, this award recognizes students who bring innovative ideas, leadership, and a commitment to global responsibility to these projects. Recipients professionally represent Ontario Tech, actively participating in collaborative efforts that promote personal growth, solve complex problems, and reinforce the university's mission for positive societal impact.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Professional representation of Ontario Tech	Represents the university with professionalism in partnerships involving external organizations or communities.	Consistently demonstrates outstanding professionalism, enhancing Ontario Tech's reputation significantly.	Represents the university well, with some evidence of professionalism and positive contributions.	Limited or inconsistent demonstration of professionalism in representing Ontario Tech.
Engagement in university-initiated partnerships	Actively participates in partnerships that enhance personal growth and the university's reputation.	Fully engaged in university-led partnerships, showing strong personal growth and positively impacting reputation.	Participates in partnerships with moderate contribution to personal growth or institutional reputation.	Minimal involvement in university partnerships or limited impact on personal growth or reputation.
Leadership and innovation in collaborative projects	Contributes leadership and creative ideas to solve complex problems or improve well-being.	Demonstrates exceptional leadership and innovation, producing significant and measurable outcomes.	Shows leadership or offers creative ideas with moderate contributions to problem-solving or well-being.	Limited evidence of leadership or innovation in collaborative projects.
Commitment to sustainability and global responsibility	Integrates sustainable practices and considers global implications in partnership activities.	Exemplifies a strong commitment to sustainability, making a significant positive societal impact.	Demonstrates some consideration for sustainability and global responsibility in activities.	Minimal or no evidence of commitment to sustainability or global impact.

The President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership

The **President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership** is Ontario Tech University's highest honour, presented annually to two graduating students—one undergraduate or professional student and one graduate student—who demonstrate outstanding leadership across all four award categories: Tech with a Conscience, Learning Re-imagined, Creating a Sticky Campus, and Partnerships.

Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify the university's mission to prepare future leaders who solve complex problems and reflect the core values of integrity, inclusion, intellectual resilience, and innovation. These students set a standard of excellence through their holistic contributions, embodying the spirit of Ontario Tech's vision while creating a lasting impact within the university and beyond.

Criteria	Definition	5 - Exceptional	3 - Satisfactory	1 - Insufficient
Leadership across all categories	Demonstrates exceptional contributions in each award category: Creating a sticky campus, Learning re-imagined, Partnerships and Tech with a conscience.	Outstanding leadership across all four categories, with evidence of holistic impact and alignment with award descriptions.	Strong contributions in most categories, with moderate to significant evidence of holistic impact.	Limited or inconsistent contributions across categories, with minimal demonstrated impact.
Holistic contributions to university vision and mission	Advances Ontario Tech's mission by solving complex problems, embracing sustainability, and driving positive change.	Exceptional contributions that align fully with the university's mission, creating transformative and sustainable impact.	Moderate alignment with the mission, with evidence of meaningful but less transformative contributions.	Limited contributions to advancing the university's mission or creating sustainable impact.
Embodiment of core values	Reflects Ontario Tech's core values: Integrity, Inclusion, Intellectual Resilience and Innovation.	Consistently exemplifies all core values through exceptional integrity, inclusivity, resilience, and innovative approaches.	Demonstrates alignment with most core values through actions and contributions in various areas.	Minimal or inconsistent evidence of alignment with core values in contributions or leadership.
Lasting impact	Creates a lasting positive impact on the Ontario Tech community and beyond.	Demonstrates significant and enduring influence, with a legacy of leadership that benefits the community broadly.	Evidence of positive impact, though the influence may be limited in scope or duration.	Limited or unclear evidence of lasting contributions or meaningful positive impact.