**DISTINGUISHED EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Category: Excellence in Learner Support Award**

**WHAT IS IT FOR?**

The **Excellence in Learner Support Award** is awarded to individuals who have a track record of supporting learning in HE and can demonstrate an outstanding contribution to the student learning experience at Ulster University. In particular, the individual’s contribution will be directly related to one or more of the Educational Excellence themes and priorities within ***five& fifty*** and will focus on an example of demonstrating initiative and effective problem solving/ innovation in direct /indirect learner support.

The purpose of the award is to recognise, reward and celebrate staff who support learning excellence and to create a proactive learning community within Ulster.

**Up to two awards** are normally available and the award of **£1000** to successful applicants should be used to support the recipients’ CPD in learning support.

**Excellence in Learner Support** Award recipients will be expected to share their experience and practice with colleagues at Ulster supported by CHERP.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

* Any member of staff who supports learning in a professional service or technician role.
* Applicants should have achieved AFHEA, or another category of HEA fellowship, at the time of making their application.

**HOW TO APPLY?**

Applicants should provide a 2000 word Reflective Statement and Case Study on their particular contribution to excellence in learning support through an innovation(s)/ approach(es)which make a transformative effect directly or indirectly on the Ulster student learning experience (see pro forma on CHERP site).

Submissions should be endorsed by the applicant’s Line Manager to confirm the veracity of the claims made within the application.

**HOW IS THE AWARD JUDGED?**

The award scheme is judged by a panel including the Dean of Learning Enhancement, representative Associate Dean(s) Education, representatives of CHERP, the Awards’ Manager, representative University National Teaching Fellow and the President of UUSU.

**Criteria**

The Assessment Panel will be looking for the following; applicants should:

* Show evidence of an initiative(s) that demonstrates sustained and effective problem solving, enhancement, or innovation in learner support that aligns to themes and priorities within ***five& fifty***
* Support the claim with independent evidence, such as testimonials (particularly from key stakeholders e.g. students, colleagues), supporting data and/or evidence of effectiveness and impact – (evidence should be integrated throughout the claim and contributes to the word count.)
* Demonstrate clearly how the initiative goes beyond that which would be expected of a ‘good professional’ and adds something novel, enhancing, or innovative to supporting learners in their area.
* Be underpinned by some reference to the professional knowledge base in HE learner support practice.
* Include reflection on or evidence of how their intervention has begun to have impact within the broader learner support community that is beyond the applicant’s local area.

**WHEN TO APPLY?**

Applications should be received by noon **September 1st 2021**.

Submission as a single PDF File to [s.floyd@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:s.floyd@ulster.ac.uk) with the subject line: Excellence in Learner Support Award

**Application Pro-forma – complete Section B&C in no more than 2000 words in total, supporting evidence must be included within the text. No additional appendices should be included.**

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| **Section A: Contact details** |
| **Name (including title):** |
| **Department:** |
| **Email Address:** |
| **Number of years supporting learners in higher education:** |
| **Summary of Supporting Learners Roles and Responsibilities:** |
| **Which Category of HEA fellowship do you hold?**  **Reference Number (on your certificate):** |
| **Line Manager Endorsement**  *I fully endorse the validity of the claims made in the application for* **Distinguished Education Excellence Awards** *(Learner Support category)*  **E-Signed** ……………………………………………………………………………  **Name:**  **Position**:  **Contact:** |
| **Complete Section B&C in no more than 2000 words in total** |
| **Section B: Your Teaching/ Learning Support Approach:** |
| *Please provide a brief reflection on your overall approach to enhancing the student learner experience (no more than 200 words) e.g. a reflection on your values and beliefs in relation to the work you do; what has influenced you in your practice; your beliefs about your role in enhancing the student learning experience?* |
| **Section C: Case Study** |
| **Title:** *meaningful, short descriptive title (to be used in publicity)*  **Summary:** *Brief summary of what the case study covers*.  **Keywords:** *(list 3 key words that reflect the focus of the case study)* |
| **What was done:**  *Please give a brief description of the case study including the* themes and priorities within ***five& fifty*** *it relates to.*  *Explain why you feel this is an example of novel, enhancing, or innovative* *practice.* |
| **Motivation and aims:**  *A brief outline of the reasons behind the practice described - its purpose and benefits. What change was it intended to make or problem was it designed to solve? What professional knowledge did you draw from to underpin your rationale?* |
| **Implementation:**  *An outline of how you carried out the initiative, the approaches you adopted. What professional knowledge did you draw from to underpin your approach?* |
| **Successes and lessons learnt:**  *Reflect on what worked well, any particular challenges faced and how these were addressed. Comment on the approach taken to evaluation and understanding the impact and effectiveness of the practice described. What did students think about your approach? Include evidence to support your understanding of its effectiveness.*  *Please also say if you are planning any changes or further developments.* |
| **Transferability:**  *Is this practice transferable? Have you shared your experiences with colleagues? What would your advice be to others thinking of adopting your approach? Do you have any evidence of colleagues adopting your approach?* |
| **Further information:**  *e.g. links to website or publications* |