

## Ed Wood Teaching Award\* 2010

### Overview

- The UK Centre for Bioscience is running the Ed Wood Teaching Award scheme for a second time. This scheme supports the Centre's aim to 'Raise the status of learning and teaching and enhance the professional development and recognition of bioscience staff'.
- The scheme is open to individuals who teach / support learning in the biosciences in any UK higher education institute or who support learning of bioscience at higher education level in a UK further education establishment. Applicants are limited to one submission in a given year. Applicants from previous years may reapply but must identify and be able to evidence a different area of excellence in student learning support as the focus for the case study development.
- Application is by self-nomination. There is no limit to the number of applications from an individual bioscience department/institution. All applications will be collated by the Centre and a shortlist of up to 4 finalists will be selected by a review panel.
- During the 2009/10 academic year the four finalists will be expected to facilitate gathering of student feedback and observation of appropriate teaching session(s) by a member of Centre staff, and contribute to the development of a 2-page case study. The case studies will form part of the final selection process and will be disseminated to the UK bioscience learning and teaching community (and beyond) through the Centre's website and other dissemination channels.

### Purposes of the scheme

The main aims of the scheme are to:

- Provide national recognition and reward for excellence in teaching and supporting student learning in the biosciences for individuals in any of the UK home nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)
- Raise the status of teaching in the biosciences as a scholarly activity
- Provide shortlisted individuals (and their departments) with supplementary detailed feedback on the student learning experience
- Support individuals in reflecting upon and enhancing their professional practice in support of student learning
- Develop case studies of effective student learning and disseminate these nationally to enhance bioscience student learning experiences across the UK

### Framework for Excellence

Describing excellence in teaching and management of student learning is not straightforward. As a result we have adopted the following framework of expectations and an

\* This scheme is developed from a scheme run in 2008-9 based on the scheme of the Engineering Subject Centre. We are grateful to Chris Butcher and the University of Leeds for permission to use and adapt their framework of expectations for this year's scheme.

application form that allows nominees to provide supported evidence of their contributions to teaching and student learning.

The framework<sup>1</sup>: Ed Wood Teaching Award finalists will be able to demonstrate (consistent with the norms and expectations of their current role):

- a) **Individual excellence.** *Evidence of promoting and enhancing the bioscience student learning experience by:*
  - Arousing curiosity to stimulate and inspire learning
  - Organising and presenting resources cogently
  - Recognising and supporting diversity of student learning needs
  - Drawing upon the results of relevant research, scholarship and professional practice, including from the established literature or their own evidence base.
- b) **How they raise the profile of excellence.** Evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning in (and if appropriate beyond) their own department/faculty, through demonstrating impact and engagement beyond their immediate academic or professional role by:
  - Contributing to the development of colleagues to promote student learning
  - Contributing to departmental/faculty/institutional/UK Centre for Bioscience and other national initiatives to facilitate student learning.
- c) **Evidence of their commitment to developing excellence.** Commitment to ongoing professional development with regard to learning & teaching (supporting learning) by:
  - Ongoing review and enhancement of individual practice, including professional development activities
  - Evidence of improvements to the student learning experience resulting from engagement in review and enhancement of individual practice.

### Application and selection process

- Applications should include information under the headings of *individual excellence*, *raising the profile of excellence* and *developing excellence*. Applications should also identify a teaching methodology or element of your practice which has been proven to enhance the student learning experience. This will be the basis for the case study if you are shortlisted.
- Applications on the proforma conforming to the stated word counts should be submitted to the Centre by 10am on Monday 5 October 2009 as indicated on the form.
- **Stage 1** – shortlisting of up to 4 finalists will be done by a review panel. Documentary evidence to support applications is not required as part of the selection process, but any statements made on the form should be verifiable. The shortlisted finalists will be announced no later than 30 October 2009.
- **Stage 2** – selection of a winner. The case study, supporting documents and evidence will be reviewed by a panel made up of members from the Centre's Advisory and decisions will be based on the advertised criteria/framework. Their decision will be final. The winner will be announced no later than 31 July 2010.

### Benefits

- Shortlisted finalists will receive £150 on completion of their case study and an expenses paid trip to present their work at a nominated Centre event at which they

<sup>1</sup> Based on the framework adopted by the University of Leeds

will be presented with their certificate. All case studies will be published on our website and in print form.

- The overall winner will be presented with their certificate and a trophy and will receive an additional £500 towards their professional development expenses or attendance at a conference of their choice to present their work.

Full details of the scheme and the finalist, winner and case studies from 2008-9 are available at <http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/recognition/award09.aspx>

Any questions about the scheme may be addressed for the attention of Dr Jackie Wilson, Centre Manager by email to [heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk) or by telephoning 0113 343 3001.