Published on *University of Toronto Faculty Association* (https://www.utfa.org)

Academic Citizenship Award

Description

The UTFA Academic Citizenship Award honours one or two initiatives undertaken by members of UTFA who have made a significant contribution to our understanding of the relationship between the University and public life—whether by encouraging the positive engagement of academics in key social issues, or by working to extend democratic and accountable practices within the University itself, or by making an outstanding contribution to the well-being of their community.

The award is accompanied by a $1,000 prize, awarded to one initiative or each of two initiatives annually.

Eligibility

Nominees should be from the broad UTFA membership and not currently serving on the UTFA Executive Committee.

A nominee should:

- have participated in a leadership role in a significant initiative in the current or past academic year;
- be a faculty member or librarian from any of the three University of Toronto campuses or the federated colleges; and
- have contributed a significant amount of time to the initiative without substantial monetary gain from the work.

Selection Criteria

Each nominated initiative will be evaluated based on its demonstrated significance and positive impact, as well as one or more of the following criteria:

- Capacity to engage academics in key social issues

- Promotion of democratic practices at the University
- Advocacy of accountability in University governance
- Outstanding contribution to the well-being of the University or an under-served community
- Innovation: approaching a problem using a new and creative solution

Nomination Materials

The nomination consists of:

- a nomination form
- three narratives, each 300 words or less, that address the following:

a. What was the initiative?
b. What was the impact or result of the initiative?
c. Who else was involved? Explain or describe their contribution.

- one letter of support from a colleague who is an UTFA member
- No additional material may be included.

The nomination deadline is February 28, 2027.

UTFA Council will choose award winners following on the recommendation of the UTFA Membership Committee.

2025 Recipients

Message from the President

UTFA is proud to deliver the 2025 Academic Citizenship Award to the Fair Pay for Junior Faculty and Librarians Organizing Team: Tommaso Pavone, Semra Sevi, Lana Salman, Caleb Pomeroy, David Ragazzoni, Derefe Chevannes, and Sverrir Steinsson. They mobilized to launch a petition that gained over 750 signature to address salary disparities for UTFA members hired after June 30, 2023, who were excluded from across-the-board (ATB) salary increases awarded in July 2025.

2024 Recipient

Message from the President

UTFA is proud to deliver the 2024 Academic Citizenship Award to Tara Moriarty. Professor Moriarty has dedicated significant effort to educating the University of Toronto community about the COVID-19 pandemic. Her insights have been essential for understanding the risks and protective measures related to the virus, and she has provided valuable information to UTFA to support its members and the broader university community. As public health efforts regarding COVID-19 have diminished, Professor Moriarty has significantly increased her information-sharing activities on the COVID-19 Conversations online platform. This platform offers real-time updates on the virus and serves as one of the last reliable sources for current, scientifically authoritative information on COVID-19.

2023 Recipient

Message from the President

UTFA is proud to deliver the 2023 Academic Citizenship Award to Nisrin Elamin. Professor Elamin's work addresses the Sudanese crisis, and we commend her courageous efforts in founding The Sudan Solidarity Collective and launching the Sudan Solidarity Fund, which supports grassroots organizations in Sudan. We celebrate Professor Elamin's extensive public scholarship and international media work, which challenges the lack of attention dedicated to addressing the violence in Sudan as well as its normalization in racist tropes regarding the African continent.

2022 Recipients

Message from the President

UTFA is proud to deliver the 2022 Academic Citizenship Award to faculty members from four different groups. More...

2021 Recipients

Message from the President

UTFA is proud to deliver the 2021 Academic Citizenship Award to the faculty members from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and particularly Professors Arjumand Siddiqi, Ashleigh Tuite, David Fisman, James Scott, Jeffrey Siegel, and Paul Bozek. These UTFA members were nominated for effectively advocating for the adoption of best practices in health and safety during the global COVID-19 pandemic. More...

2016 Recipients

Message from the Membership Committee Chair

Two awards were presented this year. The first award went to the co-creators of the report Seeing Through the Cloud: Lisa Austin, Heidi Bohaker, Andrew Clement, and Stephanie Perrin. The report cogently and critically addresses third-party outsourcing of e-communications and data services. It is brilliantly researched, making complex processes discernible. The second award went to the List group. The List was initiated in the fall by Deborah Cowen and Alissa Trotz. It hosted monthly panel talks on subjects such as the aftermath of the CUPE strike, the current state of science in the University, and sexual assault. The List also tried to make sense of the challenges to academic freedom in Turkey and India. It brought staff, faculty, and librarians together for genuine impactful dialogue.

Source URL (modified on Oct 26 2026):https://www.utfa.org/content/academic-citizenship-award