



## 2026 ALUMNI AWARDS TERMS OF REFERENCE



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Across Canada and around the globe, Trent University alumni are making significant contributions to their University, their professions, and their communities. The Trent University Alumni Awards recognize these individuals and their efforts to build a better world.

Trent University is proud of our alumni who are giving back, making a difference, and demonstrating leadership. Trent University is pleased to honour those alumni who are inspiring others, with a series of prestigious awards.

## 1. Call for Nominations

- The Alumni Engagement & Services Office will make an open call for nominations each year.
- A cut-off deadline for nominations will be established and posted annually on the alumni website. Any nomination that is received after the posted deadline will not be considered.

## 2. Award Categories

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Presented based on a person's achievement and leadership in their field and bring honour to Trent University through their endeavours. Recipients show leadership in business, industry, a profession or in public life. Their vision, commitment, creativity, and leadership is recognized within their field or beyond it.

### Spirit of Trent Award

Presented to alumni who make a difference through contribution to the University or their community. The nominees should continue to demonstrate the values and lessons learned at Trent, such as the importance of being outwardly focused, using creative thinking skills or being a community builder.

### Young Leader Award

Recognizes young alumni who show outstanding leadership throughout their first 10 years of alumni status and are 35 years of age or younger. Their accomplishments focus on their professional career, public work, or humanitarian service.

### Paul Delaney Award for Outstanding Young Philanthropist

Recognizes a student or a recent graduate whose philanthropic leadership makes them an outstanding model for Trent students to emulate. Their work reverberates across cultural, religious, and/or generational boundaries. This award is a legacy to Paul Delaney '64, who dedicated his life to the values of social responsibility and global citizenship.

## 3. Nominee Eligibility

- Must be a Trent University alumni:
  - Graduates from Trent University (Peterborough or Durham GTA Campuses);
  - Any person who attended the University for at least one complete academic year as a full-time student, or the part-time equivalent, and is not currently studying for their first degree or diploma at the University.
- The following alumni during their tenure cannot be nominated:
  - Individuals currently serving at political offices at local, provincial, state, or federal levels;

- Members of the Trent University Alumni Awards & Recognition Committee (A&R) and Trent University Alumni Advisory Council (TUAAC);
- Individuals who have received honorary degrees from Trent University or honorary alumni of Trent University;
- Members of the Trent University Board of Governors;
- Members of Trent University's senior leadership team, including President and Vice-Presidents.

## 4. Conditions of Nominations

- Nominations can be made by Trent University alumni, staff, faculty, students or a member of the public but each nomination must have exactly two nominators.
- The nomination should be composed of:
  - **Nomination Statement (maximum 600 words):**
    - A compelling narrative outlining the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement may speak to the individual's notable achievements, contributions, and qualities that reflect the intent and spirit of the award. Illustrative examples that demonstrate the nominee's impact and significance are encouraged.
  - **Supporting Materials (optional):**
    - Nominations may be accompanied by up to two letters of support (no more than one page each), provided by individuals familiar with the nominee's accomplishments and character.
- Individuals may nominate more than one nominee per year.
- Posthumous nominations will not be considered.
- Nominees are to be informed of their nomination.
- Nominations will be considered in the year they are submitted. If a nominee is not selected, the nomination will stand for the following year.
- Unsuccessful nominations will be communicated to nominators by email or letter, indicating whether the nomination will stand for the following year or has expired.
- Standing nominations may be amended annually.
- Expired nominations may be resubmitted through the regular nomination process.

## 5. The Awards & Recognition Committee

- The Awards & Recognition (A&R) Committee is a standing committee with representatives from the Trent University Alumni Advisory Council (TUAAC).
- The A&R Committee consists of up to six members, including one alumni co-chair and one staff member from Alumni Engagement & Services acting as co-chair.
- Members of the A&R Committee cannot submit nominations during their tenure.

## 6. The Selection Process

- The Alumni Engagement & Services team reviews all nominations prior to being submitted to the A&R Committee to ensure all nominees meet the conditions of nomination, including degree(s), and completeness of nomination.
- The A&R Committee will review all qualified nominations and select recipients using a criteria-based matrix system.

- Based on the criteria-based ranking results, the A&R Committee will vote and recommend award recipients.

## 7. Recognition of the Recipients

- The Alumni Award Recipients will be profiled on the website, social media and other platforms.
- Recipients may be invited to attend special recognition event hosted by Trent University Alumni Engagement & Services.
- Recipients will receive a custom award created by an Indigenous alumni, reflecting Trent University's values and commitment to Indigenous knowledge and artistry.
- Recipients may only receive an award from each category only once.

## 8. Trent University reserves the right to:

- Revoke an award granted to a recipient should circumstances arise that, in its opinion, could unfavorably impact the reputation and/or image of the University.
- Make changes to these Terms of Reference based on recommendations from the A&R Committee.
- Occasionally consider nominations for joint awards for married partners where appropriate.