

Honorary Awards

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Policy Statement

The British Columbia Institute of Technology (“Institute”) grants honorary awards (“awards”) to recognize persons distinguished by their significant contributions and accomplishments and whose excellence reflects positively on the Institute.

Purpose of Policy

This policy and its procedures aim to:

- describe the awards that BCIT may grant;
- identify eligibility criteria; and,
- clarify the roles of those responsible for administering the granting of awards.

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Application

This policy and its procedures apply to all those involved in BCIT’s granting of honorary awards: staff of the Alumni Relations Office, members of the Board of Governors (“Board”), and the Executive Assistant, Governance (Board Office).

Related Documents and Legislation

Provincial

College and Institute Act

BCIT

Policy 1500, Standards of Conduct

Bylaws of the BCIT Board of Governors

Governance Manual of the BCIT Board of Governors

Definitions

“awards” means exclusively the categories of honorary awards BCIT grants (not including awards administered by BCIT Student Financial Aid & Awards), namely: honorary doctorates (or “honorary degrees”); Distinguished Alumni; Distinguished Service; and Outstanding Student Leadership.

“honorary degree” means the designation “Honorary Doctor” conferred upon individuals recognized for outstanding and sustained achievements in their areas of expertise, for meritorious service to education or to the Institute (where this service has brought distinction and honour to the Institute).

“honoree” means a recipient of an award, first nominated for evaluation by the Tributes Committee as an award candidate.

Awards and honorary degrees are itemized as follows:

“Distinguished Alumni Award” is the award recognizing members of the Alumni Association distinguished in the community or industry and having shown outstanding leadership and commitment in their field and to BCIT in one or more of the following areas:

- Applied research
- Entrepreneurial innovation
- Excellence in applying technology or technical skills
- Professional leadership
- Public service
- Service to the community
- Significant contributions to a chosen profession

“Outstanding Student Leadership Award” is the award granted to graduating students having demonstrated both academic achievement and outstanding leadership skills through their contributions to BCIT or to the wider community.

“Distinguished Service Award” is the award granted to recognize outstanding and sustained service to the Institute or the wider educational community, distinguished by one or more of the following:

- significant contributions to the Institute over many years;

- outstanding accomplishments that have benefitted the Institute or the community; and,
- important contributions to the Institute’s mandate, mission, and strategic goals.

“**Honorary Doctor of Technology**” is the honorary degree awarded in recognition of achievement in areas related to applied science, technology, engineering, trades, business, and entrepreneurship.

“**Honorary Doctor of Laws**” is the honorary degree awarded in recognition of achievement in areas such as public service, politics, community service and environmental stewardship.

“**Honorary Doctor of Letters**” is the honorary degree awarded for scholarly achievement in areas such as science, health, engineering, and technology.

“**Nomination**” means the pre-requisite formal recommendation for the granting of individual awards by BCIT. Nominations may be submitted by BCIT staff, Tributes Committee members and the Board of Governors, students, advisory committee members, alumni, retirees, and members of the public.

“**Tributes Committee**” is a committee of the Board of Governors, established by the Board to lead the granting of awards by BCIT. In reviewing candidates, the Tributes Committee determines the appropriate award category.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Tributes Committee** leads the granting of honorary awards by BCIT, subject to any terms of reference, resolutions, or other direction of the Board. The Board determines the Tribute Committee’s composition and any procedural matters, including meeting rules.

Deliberations of the Tributes Committee are confidential.

The Tributes Committee is responsible for advising the Board on matters relating to awards, including:

- developing award eligibility criteria;
- recommending modifications to criteria, qualifications for awards, and procedures;
- evaluating nominees based on consideration of all information;
- recommending award candidates for Board approval; and,
- reviewing the conduct of recipients and, if warranted, recommending award rescission to the Board.

The Tributes Committee may invite nominations or initiate invitations to nominate with the assistance of the Director of Alumni Relations.

Director, BCIT Alumni Relations

The Director of Alumni Relations is responsible for:

- publishing awards eligibility criteria;
- inviting nominations from the BCIT community;

- administering nominations received and referring them to the Board Office;
- maintaining a master list of nominations;
- upon Board approval, seeking candidates’ acceptance of recognition; and,
- acting as the liaison between BCIT and honorees.

Executive Assistant, Governance

The Executive Assistant:

- ensures that nominations provided by Alumni Relations are submitted to the Tributes Committee for timely review.

Special Situations

Rescinding Awards

The Board of Governors, on recommendation of the Tributes Committee and the President, may rescind an award previously conferred for conduct by the honoree that, by being associated with BCIT through its award, could reasonably cause harm to the reputation and public image of the Institute. Such conduct may have occurred either before or after the award’s conferral. To rescind an award for conduct prior to conferral, BCIT must have been unaware of the conduct when the award was given.

Associated Procedures

5501-PR1, Honorary Awards

Associated Forms

Award Nomination Form <https://www.bcit.ca/alumni/get-involved/awards/nomination-awards-form/>

Amendment History

| | <u>Approval Date</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Policy 5501, Honorary Awards (version 1) | 1991 Mar 26 | replaced |
| 2. Policy 5501 (v2) | 1997 Mar 25 | replaced |
| 3. Policy 5501 (v3) | 2001 Jun 19 | replaced |
| 4. Policy 5501 (v4) | 2002 Nov 19 | replaced |
| 5. Policy 5501 (v5) | 2004 Mar 09 | replaced |
| 6. Policy 5501 (v6) | 2004 Jul 08 | replaced |
| 7. Policy 5501 (v7) | 2010 Feb 09 | replaced |
| 8. Policy 5501 (v8) | 2015 Dec 01 | replaced |
| 9. Policy 5501 (v9) | 2026 Feb 24 | in force |

Scheduled Review Date

February 24, 2031. However, the executive sponsor may initiate policy review at any time.