

The Olympus Innovation Awards Program recognizes individuals who have fostered and demonstrated innovative thinking in higher education. The national program is conducted annually by Olympus in partnership with the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA), a national network of more than 200 colleges and universities fostering invention, innovation and entrepreneurship in U.S. higher education.

The Program includes three award categories: The Olympus Innovation Award, the Olympus Lifetime of Educational Innovation Award and the Olympus Emerging Educational Leader Award. Winners are selected from qualified professionals nominated from NCIIA member institutions, which include many top colleges and research institutions in the United States.

The Olympus Innovation Award recognizes faculty members who foster an environment of innovative thinking among students through inventive teaching methods and hands-on opportunities. The Olympus Lifetime of Educational Innovation Award honors faculty members who have demonstrated a sustained contribution throughout their careers to stimulating and inspiring innovative thinking in students in their own universities and throughout academia. The Olympus Emerging Educational Leader Award recognizes faculty members who have inspired innovative thinking in students in a discrete area and whom, the judges believe, have the potential to make even greater contributions to the field in the future.

Selection criteria for the Olympus Innovation Award include teaching and program design innovation, problem solving, quality of outcomes, quantitative impact, institutional change, individual influence, inspiration to innovate, motivation to action and societal impact. Nominations for the Olympus Emerging Educational Leader Award are evaluated on initiative, institutional impact, motivation to action, teaching and program design innovation and influence on peers. Review criteria for the Olympus Lifetime of Educational Innovation Award includes period of active engagement, respect of peers, teaching and program design innovation, quality of outcomes, quantitative impact and positive institutional change.

Judges for all three awards will include last year's Olympus Innovation Award winner Paul Hudnut, entrepreneurship instructor at Colorado State University's College of Business; Deborah Streeter, senior professor of personal enterprise, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University and 2007 Olympus Innovation Award winner; Phil Weilerstein, executive director, NCIIA; Abigail Barrow, director, Massachusetts Technology Center and NCIIA board member; Arthur Boni, director, Donald H. Jones Center for Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business as well as an Olympus executive.

The Olympus Innovation Awards Program, now in its seventh year, represents Olympus' ongoing commitment to technological innovation and education. For more information about the Program, contact the NCIIA at info@nciia.org or visit www.nciia.org. For more information about Olympus, visit www.olympusamerica.com.