The Western Awards of Excellence
Nomination Form

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

I/we wish to nominate the following **INDIVIDUAL**:

Name	Department/Campus Address	Phone/Email
Julie Whitehead	Faculty of Health Sciences	81580 jwhiteh@uwo.ca

I/we wish to nominate the following **TEAM**:　　　**Team Name:**

Name	Department/Campus Address	Phone/Email

NOMINATORS:
(Up to 3 nominators accepted)

Name	Department/Campus Address	Phone/Email
Dr. Carole Orchard	Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing	81010 corchard@uwo.ca
Karen Ferguson	Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing	86566 kfergus9@uwo.ca
Dr. Marilyn Evans	Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing	81420 mevans26@uwo.ca

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DESCRIPTION OF NOMINEE:
Using the criteria below as a guideline, provide examples that demonstrate the nominee's involvement at Western. (Note: The Selection Committee's decisions are based **solely** on the examples you provide.)

Contributes directly or indirectly to providing an outstanding Western Experience for students, faculty, staff and/or alumni

Julie Whitehead is in the role of Instructional Designer for the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western University. Her role focuses on using online technology to support and enhance faculty members' teaching. But Julie does not just provide this expertise -- she goes out of her way to stimulate, guide, support, and work collaboratively with faculty and staff in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing. She ensures the delivery of learning -- using interactive and distributed learning through OWL -- functions to guarantee our students receive learning that is both knowledge-producing and is commensurate with face-to-face engagement. Her contributions reflect the following key areas: *introduction of new ways of using technology*; *responding to requests for ways to achieve a learning goal through technology*, *support for faculty using technology*, *creativity in delivery of learning*, and *tutoring/resourcing faculty in the use of technology for teaching*.

Introduction to new ways of using technology. Julie has a thirst for learning how technology can support learning and the access of information. She provides an informational segment at each Nursing

Council meeting where she provides an informational segment at each Nursing Council Meeting where she in which she introduces new ways of using technology to faculty and staff. Her sessions are entitled "Tech Talk with Julie Whitehead" and as one staff member stated *"She is extremely knowledgeable and helpful. She attends our School Council meetings regularly and always has something new to provide in terms of services ,assistance, or programming that will make our lives easier and enrich the lives of the students"* (Jackie Windsor, staff member)

Responding to Requests for Ways to Achieve a Learning Goal Through Technology. There is no challenge brought to Julie that she does not address head on. *"In 2010 I was trying to figure out how to handle a very large student population from across a number of program areas and beyond just our own Faculty of Health Sciences to be able to electronically deliver information, learning segments, deliver quizzes, and distribute certificates of completion for our Interprofessional Learning Session titled Travels Through the Professions. Julie approached this challenge like a 'dog with a bone' she would not give up until she had the system working for us, she worked tirelessly to help me find solutions to create this space on the newly launched OWL system at Western. Her work was over several days and on into the Saturday of the actual all day face-to-face event. She and I worked over the weekend to figure out how to do a delivery of a set of slides with voice over across each of the 8 sites across the campus where program specific presentations were occurring. She was there to help resolve any glitches that happened. And there were a few, but over a three week period of time she was such a phenomenal support to faculty and staff who were doing something new for the first time. Without her support I am sure the students would not have gained the positive experience that the day provided. Her response to being thanked was to thank our group for allowing her to learn something new as well"* (Carole Orchard, faculty member).

Support for Faculty Using Technology. Julie has become a key member of our faculty/staff group. Her name is synonymous as the 'solver' when any challenge with technology arises for our teaching/projects. You hear faculty stating "I need to call Julie." As one faculty member commented *"My input [to support her nomination] would be the quick, easy to use and understand responses to any concerns or issues, and her helpful hints during School Council"* (Nancy Platt, faculty member). Another faculty member commented about her supportiveness when she stated Julie *"consistently displays a positive nature and encouragement when working with faculty who are trying to navigate technology in the classroom"* (Marilyn Evans, faculty member). Another faculty member shared *"Julie has been a great support to me as I develop OWL sites for my courses, as well as throughout the term if I have questions or wish to revise or extend the sties. She is always patient and supportive, and has rich ideas for inviting and effective courses sites"* (Bev Leipert, faculty member). There used to be an ongoing 'black cloud' around the use of online learning in the graduate program by some of the faculty who adamantly refused to use online technology in connecting with students who for whatever reasons, could not attend in the classroom. It was through Julie's support that those reticent in using online systems eventually caught on. As one faculty member shared *"Julie was a great help to me as I was teaching an elective course in the grad program this past semester. It had been three years. Since I used OWL, and I only had had limited experience with it, I believe when we had just begun to use it. Julie gave me a two hour one-on-one refresher course and helped ensure that the OWL site for the course was set up for optimal ease of use by both students and professor without the reassurance of having access to her expertise, I could not have delivered this course for the SON"* (Carol McWilliam, emeritus faculty member).

Creativity in Delivery of Learning. When one approaches Julie with a challenge in using technology, Julie has a wonderful way of first helping with solutions to the challenge and then as you adapt to her suggestion she often suggests an even more exciting enhancement. This was evident in the nomination support comments from Karen Ferguson (faculty member) who stated *"when the university migrated from WebCT to Sakai, Julie Whitehead became the support person to the [Preceptor Education Program] PEP program, edition 1. She provided invaluable assistance in this migration ensuring the program's integrity, and managing technical details that far exceeded the capacity of the faculty on the team. She was helpful in retrieving data that allowed us to publish 2 articles about the first version of the program. In 2014, a call for proposals came from COU [Council of Universities] about the Ontario Online Initiative. The team was successful in receiving funding to revise the existing program. In this process,*

not only was content updated, the second edition is more technologically savvy and engages learners in exciting ways. This latter change is largely the result of Julie's Instructional Design background married with her expertise in education. Edition 2 of PEP would not be what it is today, had Julie not been part of the team. She is someone you can count on, is creative, and brings a fresh energy to team work."
Tutoring/Resourcing Faculty in the Use of Technology for Teaching. Julie does not only just guide you through emails to learn to use technology in a new way, she always lets you know that if you need her, she will 'drop by' (she flies across the campus on her electric bike, since FHS is located in three different buildings) and is present to ensure if you run into any glitches she is there to ensure your success. As Marilyn Evans (faculty member) commented she *"demystifies the world of instruction technology and in doing so has helped faculty to effectively use existing and new technology in their classrooms"* and further *"her willingness to share her technological expertise and knowledge with faculty on both an individual (personally coming to classes to help address technical issues) and collective basis (attending nursing school council and sharing new information)."* Julie's support also extends to our research as Carole Orchard, (faculty member) commented *"I was trying to connect two research team members-- one Vancouver and the other in Toronto-- to be able to participate in a team meeting to begin the design of a research study. I emailed Julie and asked for guidance in using Blackboard Collaborate for this meeting. She responded promptly and guided me to her tips on the OWL site, but that was not enough to ensure our meeting would be successful. She then came to the room, to ensure the system functioned for us. She stayed for a period of time to ensure we were able to share documents and interact with each other."*

Julie Whitehead is the epitome of what Western University is espousing to provide to achieve its mission of providing the best learning experience at a leading Canadian research university (Western University Vision, 2016), Julie provides outstanding and consistent staff and faculty development through exceptional performance. No request is beyond her to address and she does this, as several colleagues commented, with a 'great sense of humor' even if this is a repeated request for the same assistance! As such it is her 'behind the scenes' work that allows our nursing programs to be providing outstanding Western experiences for our students, and a sense of accomplishment in using new ways of supporting learning for faculty and staff.

Promotes leadership and personal growth

Julie is one of those phenomenal collaborative leaders. She works quietly in the background, listening, and then sharing opportunities that we might find helpful to our work. She is an outstanding leader in personal growth among faculty and staff. As a collaborative leader she is a facilitator and a resource provider for others to do their work. For example, if you go into our nursing graduate classrooms you will find plasticized cards developed by Julie that guide us step-by-step in a language and presentation we can understand and follow, in using online connections using either Skype or Blackboard Collaborates to bring our students and faculty together in a shared learning environment. She is a supporter of our quests for new ways of teaching. As Carole Orchard (faculty member) shared *"recently a group of faculty and graduate students wanted to develop a course in response to Western's International Curriculum Call for submissions. Since the two faculty members had experience in working and with graduate students from Rwanda (all but one in or through our graduate programs), we wanted to connect nursing students from both Western and the University of Rwanda together for a shared learning course using Blackboard Collaborates. The group decided we needed to use a case study approach. I approached Julie for her advice and request to join our group. In true Julie leadership style she responded to our questions and shared what resources (headsets and a web-camera in Rwanda) would be needed to allow the connectivity required. As we met and discussed it further Julie wondered if we would like to animate the case studies. Our response was positive, but we had never done this before. Julie assured us that she could support this for us and allow us to learn how such animation can be accomplished fostering our own personal growth. So our project suddenly became far more innovative than first envisioned and knowing Julie as we do, trust her to be there for us, and are excited by this possibility."* Julie is a leader in an information age, not a director telling others what to do, but a supporter and a facilitator of others.

Many could take advice from her on how to perform in this collaborative leadership role.

Builds and fosters Western's Core Values (Integrity, Respect and Commitment to Service)

Integrity: Julie Whitehead is honourable. She exhibits a high degree of integrity through her knowledge, skills, and enactment of her professional role as the Faculty of Health Science's Instructional Designer. Julie is a person others can trust. She has created this reputation through her responsiveness to faculty and staff ambition to enhance their work. Trust is reflective of a person's competence, capabilities and their relationship building with others. Julie enacts all of these with our faculty and staff. In so doing she has earned a true partnering role within our School of Nursing. This partnership exemplifies the probity she brings to her role and her relationships with others. She emulates the Western value of integrity by being honest, fair and respectful in creating and disseminating her role and supporting others' scholarly work in teaching/learning, and in conducting all academic and professional activities. She provides a means to serving the public good for the Faculty of Health Sciences' students, faculty and staff (Western University Institutional Principles & Values, http://president.uwo.ca/strategic_planning/principles.html.)

Respect: Julie Whitehead's support is always framed positively, as she works with numerous faculty whose techno savvy is on a spectrum from nil to accomplished. As one nominator stated "I have always felt supported and respected through the process". Julie Whitehead has created and maintains a safe and respectful learning and work environment through her support of others, who in turn are able to aspire to excellence and success in their teaching and learning Western University Institutional Principles & Values, http://president.uwo.ca/strategic_planning/principles.html.)

Commitment to Service: A commitment to service is often related to how one listens to, responds to, and enacts services to others. Julie Whitehead demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the services of those working within the Faculty of Health Sciences. No request for assistance is too small, or trivial. Julie is most committed to individuals in her role, and how it impacts others in the university. Those of us supporting this nomination from within the Arthur Labatt School of Nursing (and this group numbers many more than the three requested) believe that Julie Whitehead is deserving of the University's recognition for her exceptional performance in her role as the Faculty of Health Science's Instructional Designer.

When complete, email this form to staff.recognition@uwo.ca