The CAULLT/HERDSA Award for Outstanding Leadership in Research and Development in Higher Education

The Award

The CAULLT / HERDSA award for Outstanding Leadership in Research and Development in Higher Education recognises evidence of innovative and effective leadership in higher education.

Evidence of innovative and effective leadership should be provided to support one of the following areas of leadership:

1. **Leadership in professional learning:** The individual or team has demonstrated leadership in the creation or re-development of a program of professional learning that has positively impacted the quality of teaching or the learning environment. *For example, they developed a professional learning program for sessional staff that was proven to enhance student learning.*
2. **Leadership in the scholarship of learning and teaching:** The individual or team has effectively led others in enhancing and producing their own scholarship of learning and teaching outputs. *For example, they co-developed a new framework for synthesis and dissemination of evidence-based practice assessments across providers*.
3. **Leadership in collaboration and partnership:** The individual or team has fostered collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders in the higher education community. *For example, they developed solutions through partnerships with other educational institutions, government agencies, or industry partners etc.*
4. **Leadership in governance:** The individual or team has lead policy and/or procedures that has had a measurable impact. *For example, they developed a set of discipline procedures which ensured better provision of WIL in courses and consequently higher employment rates for students post-graduation).*
5. **Leadership in the enhancement of teaching and learning:** The individual or team has effectively led others in enhancing teaching and learning practice. *For example, they designed a pedagogical practice that measurably increased student achievement across a course of study.*
6. **Leadership in inclusion:** The individual or team has developed and/or promoted inclusive practice that has measurably improved student experience. *For example, they developed a whole institutional universal design program.*
7. **Leadership development:** The individual or team has developed programs or processes that support leadership development in learning and teaching. *For example, they have developed a program for women leaders at their institution.*

How to nominate:

* You or your institution must be a CAULLT or HERDSA member working in the tertiary education sector to submit a nomination.
* Up to **5** Award recipients will be jointly announced by CAULLT and HERDSA at the annual CAULLT Conference (usually held in late October /early November).
* The Awardee will receive acknowledgement on the CAULLT and HERDSA websites, and a certificate.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the clarity of the description of the leadership initiative/activity as well as evidence of their impact. Applications should demonstrate at least ‘narrow systematic adoption’ as described in the [IMPEL Evaluation Ladder.](https://www.education.gov.au/learning-and-teaching/resources/impact-management-planning-and-evaluation-ladder-impel)

**Application Sections:**

In addition to the form below, the application should consist of the following sections to a maximum of 5 pages (1.5 line spacing, font size 12, standard margins):

1. Description of project or initiative – what was your leadership challenge? (300 words maximum).
2. Description of key stakeholders (100 words maximum).
3. Background literature relevant to the project or initiative (200 words maximum).
4. Target audience / groups (100 words maximum).
5. Reflections on your leadership approach, values, and effectiveness in relation to the challenge you describe (200 words maximum).
6. Impact of the project or initiative (150 words maximum).
7. Evidence of effectiveness and/or benefits realisation (150 words maximum).
8. Appendixes (as appropriate e.g. links to project or initiative website/s; external reviews etc).

Submission Procedure and Date

Please submit this form and application (5 pages maximum) via email to CAULLT Secretariat ([secretariat@caullt.edu](mailto:secretariat@caullt.edu)) by 6 pm AEST on 15 September 2025. **Late applications will not be considered.**

Finalists will be notified by 22 September 2025. Award winners will be announced at the [2025 CAULLT Conference](https://www.caullt.edu.au/professionallearning/caullt-2025-conference-four-provocations-for-leading-in-learning-and-teaching/) on 24 October 2025.

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Application Form

Applicants

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nomination year: |  |
| Name(s) of Applicant or Team members: |  |
| Name of Project or Initiative (if applicable): |  |
| Applicant’s email address: |  |
| Applicant’s Institution: |  |
| Applicant’s Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
| \* Only staff from CAULLT member universities or fully paid up members of HERDSA working in the tertiary education are eligible to apply | |

Category/s of application (please tick ONE only):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Leadership in professional learning |  |
| Leadership in the scholarship of learning and teaching |  |
| Leadership in collaboration and partnership |  |
| Leadership in governance |  |
| Leadership in enhancement of teaching and learning |  |
| Leadership in inclusion |  |
| Leadership development |  |

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