

# UCalgary Alumni Arch Awards – 2026 Guidelines and Eligibility

Inspired by the difference our alumni make, the UCalgary Alumni Arch Awards began in 1985, as a platform for the University of Calgary Alumni Association to honour and celebrate alumni making positive change in the world. Arch Awards recognize alumni who have notably improved their profession and community through commitment, leadership, and positive disruption.

## Eligibility:

- Nominees must have earned a degree from the University of Calgary.
- Former Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement recipients may not be nominated for subsequent Arch Awards.
- Current UCalgary Alumni Association Board members are not eligible.
- Current members of the UCalgary Alumni Recognition Committee and the UCalgary Alumni Arch Awards Sub Committee are not eligible.
- Elected members of public office are not eligible to receive an Arch Award during their term. Once the individual no longer holds an elected or appointed position in political office they are eligible.
- Faculty and staff of the University are eligible; however, their contributions should be above and beyond those expected in their normal duties.
- Anonymous and/or self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Posthumous nominations will not be considered.

## Nominations:

- Nominations and all supplemental information must be received by the posted deadline. Those received after the deadline will not be considered.
- Nominations that do not fulfill the guidelines and eligibility by the posted deadline will not be considered.
- Nominations will be accepted from alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Calgary, but not from immediate family members (Such as: spouse, child, parent, sibling).
- Nominations are confidential and candidates are not notified by the University of their nomination unless they are selected as an award recipient.

## Format:

- All nominations should be submitted electronically on the UCalgary Alumni submission platform.
- Attachments must be in the format specified on the nomination form and may be attached during the online submission process (URL links to videos and audio files are also accepted). If the nominator has a file format that is not offered but they feel is important to the nomination, they may contact [alumni@ucalgary.ca](mailto:alumni@ucalgary.ca) with more details.
- Nominations that do not fulfill the selection guidelines will not be considered.
- Alternate arrangements for submitting a nomination and/or supplemental materials may be made by contacting the Office of Alumni Engagement at [alumni@ucalgary.ca](mailto:alumni@ucalgary.ca) or 403-220-8500.

## Review Process:

- All submissions will be screened by the staff liaison from the Alumni Engagement office. Complete submissions will be shared with the Arch Awards Sub Committee.
- The Arch Awards Sub Committee will oversee the selection process.
- Should a reviewer personally know a candidate, they are required to self-identify and may be excluded from review of that candidate as per the Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Should a candidate be nominated in two or more categories, the Arch Awards Sub Committee

may determine the appropriate category and notify the nominator(s) as necessary.

- Nominees not selected will be held over for consideration for two additional years for a total possible consideration of three selection cycles, provided that the nomination package is complete.
  - Nominators will be given an opportunity to update their submission.
  - Nominations that fall below the review threshold will be requested to improve their nomination package for the following year. Those that are not updated may not be reviewed.
- Results of the selection process will be compiled and confirmed by the staff liaison to the Arch Awards Sub Committee. The committee will present their top choice plus an alternate in each category to the UCalgary Alumni Association Board of Directors. If less than two qualified candidates are identified through the nominating process the committee reserves the right to put one or no candidates forward.
- The selection process is confidential and may result in:
  - Only one successful nomination package will be selected in each category, unless the committee unanimously agrees to select more than one and this decision is approved by the UCalgary Alumni Association Board of Directors.
  - The committee reserves the right to withhold an award in any category if no suitable candidate is identified. The Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement must be presented annually.
- Chosen honourees will be notified by a phone call from the Alumni Association President and Chair and followed up via email. The staff liaison from the Alumni Engagement office will follow-up to confirm honouree intention and availability.
- Awards will be presented at an event to be determined in the autumn of each year.
- Should the candidate not be available to receive the award or refuses the award, the Arch Awards Sub Committee reserves the right to offer the award to another candidate or to not offer the award.
- Once all the Arch Awards recipient profiles are complete, a liaison from the University of Calgary Alumni Engagement office will inform the chair and committee the date when they can share the news publicly (in conversations, on social media, etc.).

#### **Arch Awards Sub Committee:**

The Arch Awards Sub Committee comprises up to a maximum of fifteen (15) voting members, including its Chair.

- All current members of the Alumni Recognition Committee who have not exceeded the four (4) term max for Arch Awards Sub Committee.
- The UCAA President and Chair of the Board shall serve as voting ex officio member of the Committee.
- A minimum of two (2) past Arch Award recipients.
- Additional alumni-at-large who reflect the diversity of the alumni community.
- The Executive Director, Alumni, or delegate shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Committee.

#### **Need assistance? Contact us:**

[alumni@ucalgary.ca](mailto:alumni@ucalgary.ca)

403-220-8500