



# USSU EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Sunday, March 24, 2024 | Louis' Loft

11:00AM SOCIAL

11:30AM BRUNCH

12:30PM FORMAL PROGRAM

### TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

★ **Sean Maw**  
*Presented by Dr. Jerome Cranston*

★ **Hossein Rafiei**  
*Presented by Dr. Wendy James*

★ **Curtis Wendlandt**  
*Presented by Elisabeth Bauman*

★ **Jeff Schoenau**  
*Presented by Dr. Jerome Cranston*

★ **Ebrahim Bedeer Mohamed**  
*Presented by Dr. Wendy James*

★ **Simonne Horwitz**  
*Presented by Brock Neufeldt*

★ **Diane Clark**  
*Presented by Alexis Salisbury*

★ **Layla Gould**  
*Presented by Brock Neufeldt*

★ **Monique Blom**  
*Presented by Eileen Knox*

★ **Celene Sidloski**  
*Presented by Elisabeth Bauman*

### TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD – INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

★ **Sukhman Dhawan**  
*Presented by Dhairya Mehta*

### HELP CENTRE AWARD

★ **David Zhang**  
*Presented by Sara Islam*

### PRIDE CENTRE DOUG WILSON AWARD

★ **Emily Hubick**  
*Presented by Kseniah Pidskalny*

### WOMEN'S CENTRE AWARD

★ **Nadia Watts**  
*Presented by Yashica Bither*

### FOOD CENTRE AWARD

★ **Keisha Singh**  
*Presented by Amy Remeshylo*

### WALTER MURRAY LEADERSHIP AWARD

★ **Neesha Persad**  
*Presented by Gurbaz Singh*

### FREDA SALIKIN STAFF SPIRIT AWARD – USSU STAFF MEMBER

★ **Marina Bruce**  
*Presented by Morgan Billard*

### DOUG FAVELL STAFF SPIRIT AWARD – U OF S STAFF MEMBER

★ **Tracy Spencer**  
*Presented by Ishita Mann*

### VERA PEZER AWARDS FOR STUDENT ENHANCEMENT

USSU  
CENTRES

★ **Nova Heartfire**  
*Presented by Vera Pezer*

MEMBER OF  
STUDENT COUNCIL

★ **Eileen Knox**  
*Presented by Vera Pezer*

VOLUNTEERISM

★ **Harkaranveer Singh Pooni**  
*Presented by Vera Pezer*

CAMPUS GROUP

★ **Agriculture and Bioresources Students' Association**  
*Presented by Nishtha Mehta*

### ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARD

★ **Jocelyn Ormerod**  
*Presented by Eileen Knox*

### BARB YANKO OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARD

★ **Alexis Salisbury**  
*Presented by Elisabeth Bauman*

### STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUITY ENHANCEMENT

★ **Harleen Arora**  
*Presented by Ishita Mann*

### OPEN RESOURCES INITIATIVE AWARD

★ **Alison Ward**  
*Presented by Brock Neufeldt*

## **TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Aristotle said that teaching is the highest form of understanding. How right he was. Excellence in teaching occurs when one who has mastered the craft conveys that highest form of understanding to students. Excellent teachers impart knowledge. They challenge. They provide tools. They inspire, and occasionally they even infuriate – a very good quality in one seeking to share wisdom. They are organizers, innovators, creators, and they are always fair and enthusiastic. Each year the USSU receives numerous nominations from students seeking to honour their instructors. All nominees are evaluated and the ten who are selected had the very highest scores and so represent the best of the best. It is the USSU's very great pleasure to recognize them with a Teaching Excellence Award.

### **TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD – INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT**

For a complete university educational experience students rely on the tireless efforts of individuals committed to providing instructional support. Teaching and Laboratory Assistants, Laboratory Technicians, Teaching Fellows and other, non-faculty teaching staff, all contribute significantly to positive educational outcomes for students. Founded in 2013 by Vice President Academic Affairs Ruvimbo Kanyemba, this award will be presented yearly to an outstanding member of the teaching support community as nominated by students.

### **ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARD**

Founded in 2009 by Vice President Academic Brea Lowenberger, the Academic Advising Award recognizes the invaluable role played by those faculty and staff members who provide undergraduate students with the effective and efficient direction they need to complete their chosen degrees. Advisors assist countless students to navigate the complexities of Colleges, Schools, Departments, and Programs to ensure that all requirements for Convocation are met. They also help students find direction and in so doing are a crucial component of the student experience and of student success.

## **WALTER MURRAY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Walter Murray was the first President of the University of Saskatchewan, serving in that capacity for 29 years from 1908 until 1938. A tireless champion and visionary, President Murray set the course for the university we know today and was renowned for his leadership. His legacy is celebrated by honouring a student who has provided exemplary leadership within the university community. In so doing this student has significantly enhanced the experience of undergraduate students and contributed to a more positive environment for all.

### **FOOD CENTRE AWARD**

The Food Centre was established in 2003 in direct response to hunger on campus. Since then the centre has broadened its horizons to include more than just food hampers. It also provides a fresh produce market for students and food security advocacy on campus. This award is presented based on four fundamental criteria: enthusiasm, dependability, knowledge, and participation.

### **HELP CENTRE AWARD**

The USSU's Help Centre seeks to assist undergraduate students through peer support, provision of information, and a referral system to services they require. The Centre does this within the context of a safe and positive environment which protects the confidential nature of the information provided by all students. The Help Centre recognizes and celebrates the work of its many volunteers, without whom it and the USSU's other Centres could not function, and so each year an outstanding volunteer is chosen and through that individual we honour them all.

### **PRIDE CENTRE DOUG WILSON AWARD**

Among the University of Saskatchewan faculty, staff, students, and alumni are those who show leadership and courage in promoting equity as a result of gender and sexual orientation. Through their leadership these individuals have contributed to the on-going effort to achieve justice for queer identified people. Doug Wilson, who died of AIDS related pneumonia in 1997, broke significant ground when he challenged an earlier ruling by the University that he could not supervise practicing teachers because of his sexual orientation and we honour the memory of his determination to make substantive and meaningful change through this award. The Pride Centre, founded by the USSU in 1997, seeks to work with people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in an open and progressive environment that advocates, celebrates, and affirms sexual and gender diversity.

### **WOMEN'S CENTRE AWARD**

The USSU Women's Centre takes a proactive and animated approach to educating the campus community about issues affecting women. The Centre works to provide a safe and positive environment dedicated to the promotion of equality while simultaneously recognizing and celebrating our diverse and vibrant community. Each year the Women's Centre honours a volunteer who models the best of that for which the centre stands.

### **DOUG FAVELL U OF S STAFF SPIRIT AWARD**

For many years Commissionaire Doug Favell greeted visitors to the main university library and those who met him knew him as a kind, compassionate, patient, and thoughtful man. He modeled the best in non-academic staff members who are responsible for enhancing the student experience at the University of Saskatchewan. Without the non-academic staff the university simply could not function and so we honour one staff member from the University of Saskatchewan.

### **FREDA SALIKIN USSU STAFF SPIRIT AWARD**

Freda Salikin worked for the USSU for forty years in a variety of capacities ending her career as the Business and Facilities Manager. Throughout her lengthy tenure Freda's most important principle was serving the needs of undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. On her retirement the staff at the USSU renamed one of the Doug Favell awards in order to honour Freda's lifelong commitment to students.

### **VERA PEZER AWARDS FOR STUDENT STUDENT ENHANCEMENT**

Among her many other accomplishments Dr. Vera Pezer, former Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, was once the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs and Services. In that capacity Dr. Pezer recognized that to embrace the full University of Saskatchewan experience meant embracing a broader scope than the classroom alone, and because of that the USSU Executive established the Vera Pezer Awards for Student Enhancement in order to celebrate and acknowledge the many volunteers on our campus without whom we would all be much poorer. Students who volunteer give freely of their time and energy to ensure that the non-academic side of university life is significantly enhanced.

### **BARB YANKO OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

The Barb Yanko Outstanding Citizenship Award is awarded to one (1) University of Saskatchewan Student. This award recognizes a student who demonstrates: Leadership within the USask Community; Excellence within their studies; Community Involvement (volunteering within the USask and/or Saskatoon Community); Being a Role Model for Students; and Strong Moral Character, Integrity, Professionalism, Kindness, Gratitude.