



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Peer Helper of the Year Award

Description and Selection Criteria

AWARD INTRODUCTION

The Peer Helper Program strives to give students the opportunity to make meaningful connections with their campus community while taking on non-paid leadership positions within a variety of departments and offices. The Peer Helper Program encourages professional development through these immersive opportunities that aid in students gaining valuable soft skills. The three pillars that ground the Peer Helper Program are ***career development, self-awareness, and building campus community***. The Peer Helper Program, in collaboration with the Leadership and Student Engagement Office, is pleased to introduce this award to recognize the amazing work our students have done to contribute towards improving their own and others' student experience on-campus.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominees for the Peer Helper of Year Award must:

- Be an active Peer Helper during the 2022/2023 academic year at the University of Calgary (*including a minimum of two full terms of service);
- Be in good standing and in compliance with all student requirements of the Peer Helper Program; and
- Have a strong work ethic and have demonstrated exceptional character and/or gone above and beyond in fulfilling the responsibilities of their Peer Helper role. This might include:
 - Taking on a leadership role in a Peer Helper team by leading through example and executing all tasks of their role at a consistently high level;
 - Has proven to be an asset to their team, providing support that enhances the team environment and the work of professional staff;
 - Implementing a new process that has improved an existing program or service, and/or contributed to the development or the completion of a major project within an office;
 - Supported other Peer Helpers or students within the office in a way that has made a significant difference. Examples could include:
 - a Peer Helper who assists with the training of new Peer Helpers, which though not required of them, was an additional time commitment they made beyond regular hours;
 - a Peer Helper who has walked student(s) over to Wellness Centre Counselors when in distress, and in turn exercises good judgement, and demonstrates an understanding of personal/professional boundaries while providing support for the student.

In adjudicating award nominees, the following criteria, which match to the Peer Helper Program's three pillars will be considered in selection of the recipient:

Career Development

- Demonstrates excellence in a professional setting by applying learned skills and experiences;
- Demonstrates a commitment to developing professional and/or future career related skills; and
- Has taken initiative within their role as a Peer Helper to achieve personal goals.

Self-Awareness

- Demonstrates a commitment to learning about and continuing to develop their strengths, talents and personal leadership style; and
- Recognizes that they are representing the University of Calgary while serving as a Peer Helper and is consistently a positive role model both within and outside of the campus community.

Building Community

- Through their Peer Helper role, acts as a role model and actively builds a positive community at the UCalgary, in their home unit, or more broadly within the larger University community;
- Demonstrates an effort to connect with peers and support the growth and development of others; also empowers themselves and others to act with authenticity, integrity, and compassion when engaging with other students, faculty and staff; and
- Recognizes and celebrates the diversity of the UCalgary campus community.

NOMINATION PROCESS

To nominate a Peer Helper for this award, please write a reference letter no longer than two pages in length, and in 12-point font outlining how the student has met the criteria listed above and why you think they should be chosen as the Peer Helper of the Year. Please complete this short webform and upload your letter [here](#) by **11:59pm on Sunday, April 30, 2023**.

SELECTION PROCESS

An award selection committee comprised of University of Calgary staff and students will review nominations. The committee will consider all nominees against the selection criteria of the award.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the nomination or selection process, please contact Gareth McVicar at either gmcvicar@ucalgary.ca or (403) 210-9611.