



WiCS-Canada+ Mentorship Award

The WiCS-Canada+ Mentorship Award is designed to encourage established scientists of all genders to develop the research and publication skills of women and members of other equity-deserving groups including but not limited to people outside of the gender binary, people of non-heterosexual orientation, people with disabilities, and Indigenous people who are graduate and undergraduate students in cognitive science. The award honours a Canadian Cognitive Scientist who has demonstrated sustained, effective mentorship of equity-deserving students, who has also served as a research advisor or supervisor to one or more equity-deserving students during the academic year immediately preceding the nomination, and for whom there is evidence of going over and above typical mentorship activities to support equity-deserving students in cognitive science.

Award Information

Nomination deadline:

5 PM ET on April 15, 2025

Use of Award:

Award funds (\$1000/awardee) should be used to fund an equity-deserving trainee of the mentor to travel to (where feasible) or participate in a workshop, a colleague's lab, or a conference.

Basic award criteria:

1. Each nominee must have served as a research advisor/supervisor to a total of three or more equity-deserving graduate and/or undergraduate students over at least three of the five academic years preceding the nomination. If the nominee is at an institution that has a graduate program, at least one of the three equity-deserving students must be a graduate student.
2. The research in which the equity-deserving students participated must have led to dissemination through submission for publication or through presentation at a scientific meeting.
3. Nominees must agree to attend the 2025 CSBBCS meeting, particularly if they win the award.
4. This CSBBCS funding is limited to Canadian Cognitive Scientists who are current members of CSBBCS.
5. Current members of the WiCS-Canada+ Advisory Board are not eligible for nomination.

Additional evaluation criteria:

Effectiveness of the nominee's mentoring activities as evaluated by the equity-deserving students

mentored. Evidence of effective mentoring of more than one equity-deserving graduate student and/or post-doctoral fellow will be considered favorably for nominees at institutions where such opportunities exist. Nominations should highlight mentorship activities that go over and above typical mentorship activities to support equity-deserving students in cognitive science.

Who may make a nomination:

Nominations may be made by the nominee's colleagues, or by current or former students. Current members of the WiCSC+ Advisory Board cannot be nominated. Self-nominations will NOT be accepted.

Information to be provided in the nomination:

1. Name, title, address, phone number, and email address of nominee
2. Name, title, address, phone number, and email address of nominator
3. List of at least three equity-deserving graduate and/or undergraduate students for whom the nominee has served as a research advisor or supervisor

For each student, please provide:

- a) name,
- b) current contact information (including phone number and email address whenever possible),
- c) graduate or undergraduate status during the mentoring period,
- d) role in research project (e.g., honours student, independent study student, research assistant, MA/Ph.D. thesis student, etc.), and
- e) bibliographic reference to submitted publication or scientific meeting presentation resulting from the research.

In addition, nomination letters should speak to each of the following criteria in a separate paragraph with the specified heading; **a maximum of 500 words is permitted for each paragraph.**

4. Description of the nominee's record of mentorship. This may include, but is not limited to, information about such activities over a career or periods longer than the minimum period above. It may also provide information on outcomes (e.g., graduate school admissions, job placements, etc.) for mentored equity-deserving students, and activities that go beyond typical mentorship contributions.

5. Description of nominee's training environment. This may include a description of the infrastructure and opportunities made available to trainees; events and activities organized by the mentor that promote an environment of inclusiveness and well-being; workshops and other mentorship activities that strengthen trainees' skills, etc.

6. Description of what is unique about this mentor's mentorship style. How are they different from other researchers in their department? How have they gone above and beyond to foster inclusiveness and well-being in their lab? What makes them deserving of special recognition?

All nominations should be submitted electronically to the WiCS-Canada+ email: wicscanada@gmail.com (subject heading = “2025 Mentorship Award”).

Nominations will be held for three years; nominators are welcome to update nomination materials when the call for new nominations is made by submitting updated letters and CVs to the e-mail address above.

Questions may be addressed to the Chairperson of the Selection Committee at the WiCS-Canada+ email.

Selection Committee Chair: Dr. Debra Titone

Winners will be notified on or around May 31, 2025. Winners will be honoured at a ceremony at the 2025 Women in Cognitive Science – Canada Annual Meeting at CSBBCS, which is scheduled to be held during the CSBBCS Conference, July 8-12, 2025. Funding for this program is provided by CSBBCS.
