



The 2025 CAULLT - ASCILITE Award for Outstanding Leadership in Digital Learning in Higher Education

THE AWARD

The **ASCILITE / CAULLT Award for Outstanding Leadership in Digital Education** recognises outstanding leadership that has advanced learning, teaching and the student experience through the strategic and responsible use of digital technologies in higher education.

The award celebrates individuals and collaborative teams who have demonstrated sustained leadership in shaping institutional practice, building organisational capability and driving meaningful educational innovation. It recognises leadership that extends beyond technology implementation to influence strategy, culture, governance and educational quality across higher education.

Leadership may be demonstrated through initiatives involving online, hybrid or digitally enabled learning, generative AI, assessment transformation, learning design, digital capability development, educational technology, accessibility, learning analytics or other approaches that enhance learning and teaching through purposeful and evidence-informed use of digital technologies.

The award is jointly presented by ASCILITE and CAULLT and reflects the shared commitment of both organisations to recognising leadership that strengthens higher education across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Eligibility

Nominations are welcomed from individuals or collaborative teams working within higher education.

At least one nominee must be:

- a staff member of a CAULLT member institution, or
- a current ASCILITE member.

Self-nominations and nominations by colleagues are both welcome.



Award Criteria

Applicants should demonstrate evidence across the following criteria.

1. Strategic Leadership

Evidence of leadership that has influenced institutional, faculty or sector practice through the development of strategy, policy, governance, organisational capability or educational direction.

2. Educational Purpose and Responsible Innovation

Evidence that digital technologies have been adopted thoughtfully and purposefully to address educational challenges, improve learning and teaching, and promote ethical, inclusive and responsible practice.

3. Collaborative Leadership

Evidence of building partnerships, engaging diverse stakeholders and fostering collaboration across academic, professional, student and external communities to achieve sustainable educational change.

4. Impact and Sustainability

Evidence of measurable and meaningful impact on learning, teaching, student success, educator capability or institutional performance. Applicants should demonstrate how outcomes have been evaluated and sustained beyond the initial implementation.

5. Innovation and Adaptability

Evidence of creative leadership in responding to emerging opportunities and challenges, including the ability to adapt practice, develop new approaches and strengthen institutional capability in a rapidly evolving educational environment.



Assessment

Applications will be assessed on:

- the significance and originality of the leadership demonstrated
- the quality and strength of supporting evidence
- measurable educational and organisational impact
- the sustainability and transferability of the approach
- contribution to advancing learning and teaching within higher education.

Recognition

Finalists will be recognised jointly by ASCILITE and CAULLT.

The recipient(s) will be announced at the annual ASCILITE Conference Awards Ceremony and profiled through both organisations' communication channels, recognising their contribution to advancing digital education across the higher education sector.