Sakai Community Members -

The Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) committee is seeking distinguished individuals to serve as judges for the fourth annual competition for this international award. We are looking for judges who have a passion for teaching, and whose life-long work includes championing effective learning opportunities first, and technology second but who are not currently involved in the Sakai community.

The purpose of the award is:

- To drive innovation on teaching and learning within the Sakai community.
- To share best practices, understandings and experiences among faculty members and between faculty and other Sakai community members.
- To communicate the goals and issues of the teaching and learning community to contributors in Sakai including developers, user interface, system administrators, documentation, support, and quality assessment.

As you know, Sakai is an open source project and an all-volunteer group, so while we are unable to offer financial compensation to our judges there are other advantages to participating. The judges' reward is an intrinsic one in helping to identify exemplars of effective courses, which use innovative teaching practices and technology. The process also allows judges to learn firsthand about educators and best practices from all over the country and the world. We hope that the opportunity is intriguing so that potential judges see value in lending their experience to this endeavor.

We also offer publicity; judge's names would appear in all official press releases and stories about the award. We will provide links to biographies, books or other publications, and any other endeavors identified as important work. The awards presentation for 2011 will take place at our International Conference in Berlin, Germany in July. Judges will be invited to attend the conference and we will waive the normal conference fee. We anticipate the judging process will demand about 15 hours of your time. A team of volunteers from the Sakai Teaching & Learning group will check all the applications first, and select 10-12 candidates for review. Judges will select the finalists using the award evaluation rubric and through interviews with the finalists which are conducted through web-conferencing technology during the Spring semester. If you know anyone who might be interested or whom you would like to nominate, we would be delighted to hear from you to discuss this further and answer any questions.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

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Possible rewrite of letter to judges (8-16-10)

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Sakai is an open source project and an all volunteer group, so we are unable to offer compensation to our judges. The only reward we can offer you for participating is an intrinsic one in helping to identify exemplars of effective courses which use innovative teaching practices and technology. The process also allows you to learn firsthand about educators and best practices from all over the country and the world. We hope that the opportunity intrigues you and that you see value in lending your experience to this endeavor. We also offer publicity as your name would appear in all official press releases and stories about the award. We will provide links to your biography, your books or other publications, and any other endeavors you identify as important to your work.

The awards presentation for 2011 will take place at our International Conference in Berlin, Germany in July. You will be invited to attend the conference and we will waive the normal conference fee although we are unable to provide the cost of transportation or lodging.

We anticipate the judging process will demand about 15 hours of your time. A team of volunteers from the Sakai Teaching & Learning group will check all the applications first, and select 10-12 candidates for you to review. You and your fellow judges will select the finalists using the award evaluation rubric (which is attached) and through interviews with the finalists which are conducted through web-conferencing technology.

If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you to discuss this further and answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Draft... (Thank you Sue)
On behalf of the committee we are looking for individuals to serve as a judge for The Teaching with Innovation Sakai Award. The award will be made at our International Conference in Berlin, Germany in July 2011. Below are some of the details.

The mission of our working group is:

- To drive innovation on teaching and learning within the Sakai community.
- To share best practices, understandings and experiences among faculty members themselves and between faculty and other Sakai community members.
- To communicate the goals and issues of the teaching and learning community to contributors in Sakai including developers, UI, system administrators, documentation, support, and quality assessment.

For the fourth time, the Sakai foundation is sponsoring a teaching and learning innovation award for those who teach using Sakai. We are looking for a small panel of judges to help us select the finalist for this award. What is needed is a passion for teaching, and lifelong work in championing effective learning opportunities first and technology second.

Unfortunately, as an open source foundation and an all volunteer group, we are unable to offer compensation to any of our judges. However, a team of volunteers from the teaching & learning group will be vetting all the applications first, leaving only 10-12 finalists for the final round judging panel to review. We anticipate the judging process will only demand about 15 hours of time.

In addition to our personal and group thanks, we would include judges name in all official press releases about the award and the winner, and we would provide links to your bio, your books, and any other endeavors individual wish to identify as important to them and their work. Each, of course, will be identified as a final judge in the actual award presentation.

Each would also be invited to attend the Sakai conference in **** (link to conference site needed here). There would be no conference fee for you to attend, but we are unable to provide the cost of transportation or lodging.

The Committee realizes that someone of stature normally receives consulting and speaking fees, and the only reward for participating in this would be an intrinsic one--helping to identify exemplars of effective courses which use innovative teaching practices and technology. We are hoping that the opportunity intrigues you and you see some value in lending your experience to this endeavor.

Attached is our evaluation rubric and we would be happy to talk to anyone more about this. We could set up a time to chat more about this.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from any one with recommendations.