



# Te Whatu Kairangi

Aotearoa Tertiary  
Educator Awards

Join the growing  
community of  
phenomenal Pacific  
educators in Aotearoa



Tālofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, fakaalofa lahi atu, ni sa bula vinaka, kia ora, tālofa, fakafeiloaki, halo olaketa, mauri, fakatalofa atu, taloha ni!

## Le Moana Mua

**We were delighted to award the first ever Le Moana Mua Awards in 2023. We want to continue recognising and celebrating phenomenal Pacific tertiary educators and trainers in 2025.**

Le Moana Mua Award represents national recognition of outstanding Pacific teaching or training delivered by exemplary, phenomenal Pacific educators. This award offers a wonderful opportunity for Pacific teaching/training individuals and groups to shine.

We know that amongst the Pacific tertiary community across Aotearoa there are many educator individuals and groups doing great things to support their learners, colleagues and organisations in their day-to-day teaching practice.

While some Pacific educators or trainers may not see what they do as special, or worthy of an award, it is important their work is recognised and celebrated for the positive impact it makes and the success they contribute to for their learners. Through the Te Whatu Kairangi Awards, phenomenal Pacific individuals and teams from our communities have the opportunity to be acknowledged for their efforts. This raises the profile of Pacific Peoples and Pacific priorities across our diverse sector and in work-based learning.

Pictured above: 2023 Le Moana Mua Award recipient Filoi Genevieve Togiaso (Ara Institute of Canterbury) and Ako Aotearoa Board Chair Derek McCormack

## Le Moana Mua Criteria

The criteria for the Le Moana Mua Award are based on Chu-Fuluifaga and Ikiua-Pasi's (2021) research on phenomenal educators for Pacific learners. This research outlines a process that can improve teaching practice and results in transformational change in Pacific learners. The 10 Habits can give teachers the confidence that they are on the right path to develop outstanding practice.



Pictured: 2023 Le Moana Mua Award recipient Vijay Pillay (New Zealand Skills and Education College)

See pages 13–15 in the Criteria and Guidelines booklet for all information about this award's criteria. Nominations for individuals and groups are welcome.

## More about the Te Whatu Kairangi Awards

Te Whatu Kairangi (the Aotearoa Tertiary Educator Awards) celebrates outstanding educators and teams across the entire tertiary education sector who are making a difference to learners, their whānau, aiga and communities.

There are four kinds of awards to choose from:

- Kaupapa Māori (individual or group)
- Le Moana Mua (individual or group)
- General (individual or group)
- Te Tohu Reo Māori.

Individual awardees receive a grant of \$15,000 and Groups will receive a total of \$20,000. A further \$10,000 grant is allocated to one overall awardee as the Prime Minister's Educator of the Year.

## Who can enter

We encourage nominations from any tertiary educator who has been working in an education position for at least four years full-time, or equivalent, and is employed with an organisation that receives Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) funding. This includes educators from Industry Training Organisations, Private and Government Training Establishments, Adult & Community Education, Wānanga, Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics, Universities and more.

# Submit or support a nomination

Visit [ako.ac.nz/te-whatu-kairangi](https://ako.ac.nz/te-whatu-kairangi) and download the 2025 Procedures, Guidelines and Criteria booklet to learn more about the Te Whatu Kairangi Awards.



**Nominations close 5pm,  
Friday 28 June 2025**

