

ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2005
ANNE MARIE MACKINNON INSTRUCTIONAL
LEADERSHIP AWARD

WENDY SHILTON

Dr. Wendy Shilton, Associate Professor, Department of English, joined the faculty at the University of Prince Edward Island in 1996. For the past seven years she has served as the Coordinator of the University Writing Council while teaching courses in writing and literature and maintaining an active research program.

The AAU Instructional Leadership Award is given to recognize commitment over an extended period of time to the improvement of university teaching, within a candidate's institution and beyond. Dr. Shilton's instructional leadership activities exemplify and extend the intent of this award.

On being hired by the Department of English, she was asked to take some special responsibility for promoting writing. "Dr. Shilton took the invitation, and she ran with it". She began, as Director of the Academic Writing Program, to transform the delivery and instruction of the mandatory first year English 101 course in Academic Writing. She continued by introducing the university community to the concepts underlying Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), arranging a mix of discussion sessions, workshops, visits with departments and individual consultations. This was followed by her proposal to establish a University Writing Council which she has been instrumental in leading and sustaining. She led the design and implementation of the University Writing Center, a core academic support on campus; and she championed the establishment of a University Writing Minor.

Dr. Shilton views her approach to instructional leadership as deriving from four key strengths: an instructional vision; a capacity to inspire; understanding and patience; and a commitment to rigorous performance standards. While stating modestly that she could not claim strengths in all four areas, her colleagues at UPEI and at other universities where she has shared her expertise and vision, attest to her instructional leadership strengths and accomplishments.

One colleague wrote "the instructor and student experience of writing at the University of Prince Edward Island is importantly changed because of Dr. Shilton's leadership. The shift towards a culture of critical literacy through writing has been led by Dr. Shilton and is a lasting legacy".

For her many instructional leadership activities and accomplishments, the Association of Atlantic Universities is pleased to recognize Dr. Wendy Shilton with the 2005 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award.