



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2014

Anne Marie MacKinnon
Educational Leadership Award

DR. ANN BRAITHWAITE

For Dr. Ann Braithwaite, understanding diversity and promoting social justice are not just academic endeavours. Rather, for the University of Prince Edward Island's Coordinator of Diversity and Social Justice Studies, these are principles she lives by, which inform her research, her teaching, her support for her students, and her involvement in her academic community and in this profession. Ann has conceived and developed her program so that it is now regarded as an essential component of a variety of other majors and minors at UPEI. But this has required not just dedication and commitment; Ann has organized regular retreats, seminars, and workshops for faculty involved in teaching courses that either intersect or are a part of the constellation of courses that comprises Diversity and Social Justice Studies. She continues this work with colleagues at other universities, running curriculum workshops and conducting program reviews, all focused on bringing colleagues together to constantly explore 'who we are and what we do.' Ann's educational leadership in creating coherence includes modelling for students and faculty the value of exploring connections and divergence in the world of ideas and the world of practice while also helping us recognize these are not, in fact, separate worlds. Furthermore, as Dr. Don Desserud, Director of Faculty Development and former Dean of Arts at UPEI says, "Ann is not just a dedicated advocate. Ann gets results!"

UPEI's 3M National Teaching Fellows agree that Ann is a worthy recipient of this year's award. Dr. Shannon Murray says that "no one in the Faculty of Arts has more energy or has worked harder to bring us together with a common goal: to improve the learning experience for our students." Dr. Philip Smith adds: "On our campus and in our town we repeatedly see Dr. Braithwaite's educational leadership in supporting students to bring their intellectual skills outside of the classroom and into the lived experience of students and others on and off campus."

Ann has been recognized by her UPEI peers on several occasions: she has received the Hessian Award for teaching excellence, the Janet Pottie Murray Award for educational leadership, and the Presidential Recognition Award of Merit for teaching, research, and university service. It is fitting that, in recognition of her exemplary and effective educational leadership, the Association of Atlantic Universities has named Dr. Ann Braithwaite the 2014 recipient of the Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award.