



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2017

Anne Marie Mackinnon
Educational Leadership Award

DR. ANNE MARIE RYAN

Dr. Anne Marie Ryan is a University Teaching Fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science, at Dalhousie University where she is an “innovative and successful teacher.” She is also a Faculty Associate with the Centre for Learning and Teaching, sharing her “deep passion for teaching and learning” with colleagues across the university and beyond through workshops, presentations, and university-wide committee work. In her own Faculty, she developed a community of practice where she has been “the key teaching mentor for new faculty.”

Dr. Ryan works from a grass-roots level by “sharing ideas, listening to others, and bringing people together to take those ideas from conversation to reality.” Her leadership is driven by her interconnected roles of teacher-as-leader, colleague mentor, and as an educational scholar. She is an innovative thinker, collaborator, community-builder, and persistent advocate of curriculum development that expands students’ learning, while encouraging her colleagues’ interest in exploring new and innovative ideas in teaching and learning. Her educational leadership has resulted in numerous initiatives in the Faculty of Science and, beyond that, has had a wide-ranging impact, including through a number of teaching and learning presentations and publications.

Dr. Ryan sees herself as a teacher who leads students to re-think what science is and what it means to be a scientist in the world today. Working from conceptualization to implementation, and with the support of others, Dr. Ryan co-developed the Certificate in Science Leadership and Communication and co-teaches the capstone course in Science Leadership. Through this Certificate, students consider science in societal and ethical contexts and are given the opportunity to practice their own leadership skills, through such avenues as a senior mentor program and working for not-for-profit science organizations. One student in the leadership course wrote that Dr. Ryan, “helped me discover who I am as a scientist and what I have to offer to the world of science and for that I will be eternally grateful.” Dr. Ryan has explored her own scientific interests and concerns and shared them with others through her research on incorporating geoethics in the classroom. Her hope is to “bring about much-needed change in how we are teaching our undergraduates with respect to their development as socially-conscious geoscientists.”

Her colleagues have awarded her the 2015-16 Dalhousie University Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2014-15 Faculty of Science Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the 2013-14 Dalhousie University Educational Leadership Award. It is fitting that Dr. Anne Marie Ryan be recognized by her Atlantic Canada peers through the 2017 Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award.