



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2010
Anne Marie MacKinnon
Instructional Leadership Award

BRENDA ROBERTSON

Dr. Brenda Robertson is a professor in the School of Recreation Management and Community Development at Acadia University, whose research and teaching interests include youth at risk, leisure education and disenfranchised populations. Dr. Robertson's nominators have described her as a passionate, compassionate, and innovative teacher, who challenges her students to learn. At the same time, as an educational leader, she has demonstrated a broad and pervasive influence. She has initiated projects that link the university with the wider community and she has been at the forefront, nationally and internationally, in the field of leisure education.

A small sample of Dr. Robertson's many activities reflects the scope and impact of her leadership. She has served as Program Manager for Commissions of the World Leisure Organization. She was President of Recreation Nova Scotia; a member of Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Correctional Services of Canada and Chair of the Institute for Civic Engagement Planning Committee. To encourage student community engagement, Dr. Robertson established the Lyle Davis Community Engagement Student Award, and she coordinated the Lyle Davis Workshop Series, raising over \$10,000 to endow the Award. She has served as Faculty Advisor to the Student Professional Society for the past 18 years. She provided leadership to 24 students to attend World Leisure Congress in October, 2008.

Dr. Robertson has been a pioneer in course and curriculum development. For example, she designed the first course in North America that approaches leisure education from a community perspective. As there were few resources, she wrote a 158-page manual simply entitled *The Leisure Education Manual* to serve as the textbook. Other institutions in Canada developed courses based upon her model and are using her manual as their textbook. In 2007, she helped create a unique 36-hour Orientation for incoming Recreation Management students, based on the principles of experiential learning. She was granted an Acadia Teaching and Learning Enhancement Award to conduct research on the outcomes of this Orientation and developed a research-based guide for which requests have been received from across North America. Building upon the success of the 2007 Orientation, she and a colleague designed and delivered an equally innovative 36-hour Orientation experience entitled 'Seeing the World through Different Eyes' in 2009.

Acadia has recognized Dr. Robertson's extraordinary contributions by awarding her the Faculty of Professional Studies Outstanding Teaching Award, the Acadia Students' Union Outstanding Teaching Award and the 2008 Associated Alumni Teaching Award.

Brenda Robertson serves many communities, and all have benefitted from her involvement. An outstanding teacher and an indefatigable leader in her discipline, Dr. Brenda Robertson of Acadia University is a very worthy recipient of the 2010 Anne Marie MacKinnon Instructional Leadership Award.