



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

*Award for Excellence in Teaching*  
*2022*  
*Distinguished Teaching Award*

**DR. SUSAN ANDREWS**

Dr. Susie Andrews' enthusiasm for teaching seems limitless. Students, faculty and staff at Mount Allison University all recognize this after first meeting Dr. Andrews. Her enthusiasm is combined with modesty and an unassuming nature. Nominator Dr. Robert Lapp writes, "her energy is poised between humourous joy and striking humility, between effervescent enthusiasm and a palpable sense of profound calling."

Enthusiasm and modesty are further combined with profound care. Dr. Krista Steeves notes that "Susie's work is deeply rooted in care; she opens a space where learning can happen without judgment." Caring is vital to student learning and engagement but that is not Dr. Andrews' rationale for caring: Susie cares because it is how she moves through the world; her caring is about her values.

Susie's teaching is also contemporary, active and innovative. She has organized various work-integrated learning, immersive experiences, and novel in-class activities. Some specific examples include working with Sackville Playschool and the Salem Elementary School. This project had students evaluate and code over 4000 books for diversity to get an accurate picture of how diversity and difference is represented in such books.

Deep learning is important to Susie. This is accomplished in several ways including involving undergraduate students in international research collaborations. Some of these projects consist of exploring gender and religion, technology and monasticism, and medicine and religion with colleagues in China. Students have unique, exciting and memorable learning experiences through this and other projects. It should be noted that Susie's Frogbear program, a SSHRC Partnership Grant, seeks to take student inclusive research beyond the classroom to communities globally.

Susie writes that she strives to build and create "collaborative, curiosity-driven environments." One way Susie achieves this in the classroom is with creative assignments. For example, the Imaginary Test asks students to create and develop a test followed by a reflective paper. Another creative class activity, Research-Based Character Diaries, has students consider social class, age, geographic location, gender and the lives of those living a thousand years ago.

How is this enthusiasm and caring, reflected in the afore mentioned courses and research, witnessed and experienced by students? They write, "Susie's passion for teaching is reflected in the unique relationships she forms with every student" and "relentless support...(that) encouraged me to set higher goals." Others write, "Dr. Andrews displays an unrivaled enthusiasm for ensuring her students learn and succeed" and "There was truly never a dull moment in Dr. Andrews' class...and makes a lasting impact on her students."

Susie's care and enthusiasm, combined with great thought and her teaching, pays off. Students are excited. Students learn. Students remember. With great respect of students and colleagues, Dr. Susie Andrews is an excellent choice to receive the 2022 Association of Atlantic Universities' Distinguished Teaching Award.