



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2022
Distinguished Teaching Award

DR. SANDRA BELL

Dr. Sandra Bell is a professor in the Department of Humanities and Languages at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. She is a remarkable teacher of literature, and her courses have connected students to rich literary texts for more than twenty years.

As a teacher of Renaissance Literature and Drama, Dr. Bell is a captivating lecturer, a superb facilitator of group discussions, and she regularly includes innovative assessments such as having her students write sonnets or parodic verse. As one of her students writes, she has a strong “desire to see her students flourish on their own and to find their own voice.” Her students recognize her level of commitment; one former student notes that, “her sincere care and compassion for her students exceeded my expectations and profoundly impacted my future.” In the last decade, Dr. Bell has moved beyond the conventional classroom and developed numerous innovative courses, such as “Shakespeare and Pedagogy” and “Liberal Arts: Essential Skills,” that have affected her students in transformative ways. She has connected students with each other, with audiences, and with the wider community of Saint John in ways that have reshaped their perceptions of themselves as learners.

Her enthusiasm has spread to other teachers. She researches, writes, and shares her teaching innovations through articles, newsletters, conference presentations, and workshops. Dr. Bell’s work as an educator has spread well beyond her own classroom and discipline to her department, faculty, UNB, and the Atlantic region. In her role as an educator, Dr. Bell has been deeply connected to the City of Saint John. She has founded and organized several cultural and arts organizations. Through her work in the theatrical life of the city, both before and after the pandemic, she has forged a bond between UNB, its students, and the wider community.

In conclusion, Dr. Bell is an excellent teacher, a central member of UNB, and a cultural educator who has influenced her community. As Dr. Bell herself comments, “learning does not happen in isolation, nor does it happen for isolated moments of time; it is an ongoing, dynamic event. I try to show students that I am still learning.” Her students recognize her abilities: “She wears her devotion to literature and to teaching on her sleeve, and her passion is infectious.” It is because she has demonstrated a consistently high level of teaching excellence and innovation that the Association of Atlantic Universities has named Dr. Sandra Bell a [2022](#)-recipient of the [2022](#) Distinguished Teaching Award.