



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2024

Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award

DR. JO-ANN MACDONALD

Enacting a culture of caring is foundational to the way that Dr. Jo-Ann MacDonald, of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Prince Edward Island, approaches educational leadership. She embraces the moral obligation to act ethically, through a lens of social justice, yet keeps caring top of mind when planning curricula, developing courses and learning experiences, collaborating with colleagues nation-wide in establishing national accreditation standards, and in her day-to-day interactions. She possesses the incredible gift to respectfully listen in ways that those with varied perspectives feel heard and know their ideas have been equally considered.

Nursing education has a responsibility to fulfill its societal mandate by developing curricula that is relevant and considers future trends in health care against the backdrop of environments with increased regulation and accountability for continuous quality improvement. One example is her work to incorporate the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* into nursing curricula. Leadership such as hers has resulted in transformative changes in nursing education, with innovations in curriculum development establishing new best practices.

Jo-Ann recognizes the importance of supporting and mentoring the next generation of nurse educators and leaders. While she notes that a philosophy which embraces a culture of caring grounded in person-centered relationships, ethical decorum and social justice might be viewed as "soft skills" in the world of academia, she argues that these are "core skills" necessary to advance teaching and learning. She believes that instilling these skills can lead to the development of the next generation of academic leaders prepared to embrace a culture of caring as a rigorous relational practice that emphasizes collaboration and working together.

Dr. MacDonald's excellence in curriculum development, accreditation and quality assurance of Canadian nursing educational programs has been nationally recognized and is one of many examples of her leadership and shows a resounding degree of confidence among Canadian nursing educators in her expertise with ever evolving accreditation standards and entry to practice competencies. Her deep involvement in program and curriculum development initiatives based on the assessment and applicability of entry level competencies, national education frameworks, and accreditation standards, enable Jo-Ann to continue to live her philosophy of leadership through a culture of caring in ways that allow her to support new leaders, ready to facilitate the stewardship of curricula, programs and robust accreditation processes in the future.

Dr. Jo-Ann MacDonald is one of the most inspiring and impactful nurse educators and nurse leaders in Canada today. It is fitting that her commitment to educational leadership be recognized by colleagues in Atlantic Canada with the 2024 Association of Atlantic Universities' Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award.