

George Brown administrator to receive OCASA Doug Light Achievement Award



A college administrator who has divided her career between classroom excellence and administrative leadership has been awarded the OCASA Doug Light Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brenda Pipitone of George Brown College will be presented with the award at the OCASA Professional Development Conference in June.

The award is named after Doug Light, who served as president of both Centennial College and George Brown College at different times in his own 26-year career, and

who was president of George Brown when Ms. Pipitone began her career at the college 29 years ago.

Ms. Pipitone, now Dean, Academic Services & Student Affairs at George Brown, is responsible for a budget of \$13-million with a 10-person management team and oversees a staff of 165 augmented by 500 student employees.

Brenda was the founding Director of George Brown's unique Community Partnerships Office, which has become a model of college/partner collaborations to improve access to post-secondary education for non-traditional students.

As Implementation Team Leader of the Student Life Cycle Initiative, she co-led the redesign of student services across the college from a student's first point of contact to graduation. This involved cross-college participation of over 100 faculty and staff and led to significant improvement in overall student satisfaction.

She graduated from Humber College in 1975 with a diploma in Child and Youth Care, and has since earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from York, a Masters of Arts, Education from Central Michigan University, and is now enrolled as a doctoral candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto where her area of study focuses on access and retention issues faced by marginalized populations.

In 2007, she was presented with the Colleges Ontario Collaborative Educators Award, and in 2010 was inaugural winner of the Michael Skolnik Scholarship in Community College Leadership at OISE at the U of T.

The OCASA Doug Light Lifetime Achievement Award pays tribute to an administrator within the Ontario colleges who has demonstrated administrative excellence, provincially and/or nationally through leadership, contribution to others, and outstanding performance.

OCASA is a voluntary, professional association which supports and advocates for Ontario's community college administrators, while building and promoting administrative excellence for the betterment of the college system.

The OCASA Professional Development Conference, *Leaders & Innovators 2013: Adapting Leadership in Ontario Colleges*, will be held at Kingbridge Conference Centre & Institute June 24-25.

For immediate release. For more information contact Diane Posterski, Executive Director, OCASA, at diane.posterski@ocasa.on.ca

For more information about the awards program, visit: <http://www.ocasa.on.ca/about-us/awards>



OCASA is a voluntary, professional association which supports and advocates for Ontario's community college administrators, while building and promoting administrative excellence for the betterment of the college system.