

## Canadore dental hygiene professor recipient of CMU/OCASA Outstanding Research Award



The CMU/OCASA Outstanding Research Award for 2017 will be presented to Mary Alacqua Gow, a dental hygiene professor at Canadore College.

Ms. Gow's capstone paper *Evaluation of Nurses: Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions after Participating in an Oral Health Interprofessional Education Program* was completed as a requirement for her Master of Arts in Education degree through Central Michigan University's CMU) Ontario partnerships.

She will receive the award June 26 at the OCASA Professional Development Conference *Leaders and Innovators*. The conference will be held June 26-27 in King City. The award is sponsored jointly by Central Michigan University and OCASA.

Ms. Alacqua Gow began her career at Sunnybrook Hospital working with Veterans Affairs. In 2014, after spending most of her career in private practice, she began a career in teaching. She continues to promote oral healthcare in nursing homes.

She received a Bachelor in Health Administration from Ryerson University in 2014, where she developed a research paper to help improve the oral health of older adults living in residential care facilities. She was hired as a research assistant at Ryerson and began teaching part-time in 2014 and continuing with her clinical role. In 2016, she gave up her clinical role to take a position at Canadore College in the Dental Hygiene department. She plans to continue with doctoral studies.

Other nominees included: Denise Devlin-li, for her capstone *Student Success Strategies for Engineering Technology Students at Three Ontario Colleges*;

Christopher McCarthy, for *Exploring Opportunities and Benefits of Latin American and Canadian College Partnerships*; and

Lorelle Muller Lumsden for her paper *An Improvement Project: Identifying Best Practices to Improve a Prevention Program*.

The CMU/OCASA Outstanding Research Award is presented annually to Ontario students in CMU's Master of Arts in Education degree, with a Community College concentration, for conducting outstanding research in Ontario. A CMU Committee first selects nominees with the OCASA review panel selecting the award winner.