

Faculty member at Seneca named CMU-OCASA Research Award recipient



A faculty member at Seneca College has been named winner of the CMU/OCASA Outstanding Research Award for 2014.

Andrew Thornton, an instructor in business and technical writing courses at Seneca, was awarded the honour for his study: *The Perceptions of Self-efficacy of Ph.D. Instructors Teaching Community College Students in Southern Ontario*.

The CMU/OCASA award is sponsored jointly by Central Michigan University and Ontario College Administrative Staff Association to recognize the high quality of research being conducted in Ontario by CMU graduate students that impact the development of the colleges.

Honourable Mention went to Sandra Linardi, an instructor at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto. Her capstone paper was titled: *Comparison of Educational Credentials of Ontario Dental Hygiene Educators in Community Colleges, Accredited Private Career Colleges and Non-Accredited Private Career Colleges*.

Also nominated was Joanne Campagna, Director of Education at Everest College, for her paper *The Effect of Student Program Selection and Satisfaction on Retention in a Private College in Ontario*.

Mr. Thornton, a freelance communications consultant and part-time faculty member at Seneca College, has held a variety of positions in government and industry in communications. He holds a variety of credentials, including an honours

Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Guelph, and a post-graduate diploma in journalism from Centennial College.

Mr. Thornton left journalism “for slightly more stable writing positions in marketing and technical information” but says he is still driven by the spirit of inquiry. He holds a special interest in the evolving dynamics of community college faculty.

His award-winning capstone paper studies the perceptions of self-efficacy among college professors with doctoral degrees. He said the research, rooted in his journalism training, indicates that college professors in his study deal with a range of complex motivations and institutional factors, and points to the need for additional study.

The award will be presented on June 23 during OCASA Leaders & Innovators Conference at the Kingbridge Conference Centre & Institute in King City.

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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.

CMU Global Campus offers its Master of Arts degree in Education through various community college locations in Ontario. Taught in three different concentrations, this master’s degree is designed to broaden the experience of those new to education or teaching adult populations and deepen the talents of experienced teachers and administrators.