

# Centennial Director Deepak Gupta named OCASA Emerging Leader



An administrator who took charge of a \$4.2-million dollar sustainable energy innovation program in his first month at Centennial College will receive the 2015 OCASA Emerging Leader Award.

Dr. Deepak Gupta became Director of Applied Research and Innovation, heading the Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC) seven months after joining the college. He was named Director, Applied Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Services (ARIES) little more than a year later, with additional oversight of the Centre of Entrepreneurship (COE).

Under his administrative leadership, for 2015, Centennial became one of only three Canadian colleges funded for a Technology Access Centre. ARIC also attained reviewer approval for a \$4.7-million proposal for aerospace innovation — the largest in its history. ARIC is now the single largest employer of students at Centennial. More than 200 student researchers are offered paid experiential learning opportunities each year.

Deepak led a cross-functional team that founded a youth start-up accelerator for the eastern Greater Toronto Area involving collaboration both within the college and in the broader community. Under his guidance, Centennial was the only individual college out of 44 postsecondary institutions in Ontario to be awarded this special campus-linked accelerator funding to assist young entrepreneurs through its COE. The success of this initiative was recognized last year when he and his team were awarded the Centennial College's Board of Governors' Award for Excellence for Community Partnerships. Deepak was further recognized by the Board through the Award of Excellence for Distinguished Administrative Employee.

At Centennial, Deepak has volunteered for a campaign to raise scholarship and capital funds, and regularly delivers guest lectures. He has been recognized nationally by the Canadian Association of Research Administrators with the Community Builder Award in May 2015.

The OCASA Emerging Leader Award recognizes administrators who have served five years or less as an administrator and have demonstrated positive influence on the college through their leadership. The award stresses initiative through specific achievements, collaboration through

specific projects, participation in professional development, community building through outside activities, and performance as a team player.

Also nominated for the award this year were Candace Miller, Program Manager, Lawrence Kinlin School of Business at Fanshawe College; Jean Choi, Chair, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at George Brown College; and Chad Munday, Academic Manager, School of Media, Arts + Design, GNED at Loyalist College.

The award will be presented to Deepak Gupta at the Awards Luncheon at the 2015 OCASA Leaders and Innovators Conference June 22 at Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City.

*For immediate release. For more information contact Diane Posterski, Executive Director, OCASA, at [diane.posterski@ocasa.on.ca](mailto: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.