

Durham VP has created pathways to learning



Judy Robinson, recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Administrator Award, has created new pathways to take advantage of the shared facilities of Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT).

Ms. Robinson Vice-President Academic at Durham College in Oshawa, is one of two college administrators who will receive the prestigious award June 23 as part of the OCASA Professional Development Conference in Collingwood. The other recipient is Dr. Jim Elliott, Dean, School of Business and Sports Administration, School of Liberal Studies, at Lambton College in Sarnia.

As dean of Durham College School of Health & Community, Ms. Robinson was instrumental in developing linkages with UOIT that in 2008 saw the university welcome graduates of three programs from Durham continue studies toward their Bachelor's degrees.

In addition, she pioneered a unique graduate certificate e-learning program in Critical Care Nursing, for which she secured a \$1-million funding grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The program, the only one of its kind in Canada, provides an interactive teaching and learning environment.

Taking advantage of the shared campus with UOIT, Ms. Robinson developed new pathways for integration between college and university programs. Durham College graduates in Paramedic, Dental Hygiene and Practical Nursing can now continue their studies and to earn their Bachelor's degrees in Allied Health Studies at UOIT—without leaving campus. Ms Robinson has also served as an adjunct associate professor with UOIT and has also executed articulation agreements with Brock, Griffith and Athabasca universities for a variety of health and community service programs

In support of her nomination for the OCASA award, colleagues stressed that her efforts at Durham have reflected OCASA's mission to advocate professionalism, excellence and learning for the betterment of the college system. She has been an OCASA member since 2003, and has encouraged colleagues to discover the benefits of the association.

Jeanette Barrett, Dean, Durham College School of Career Development & Continuing Education: "She has a vision for where the academic operation at Durham College needs to go. One of her strengths is her ability to define that vision, get everyone on the same path and move things forward, all while ensuring that everyone is heard and their ideas are incorporated along the way."

Durham College President Don Lovisa: "Consistent with Durham College's values, she acts with integrity, respect and innovation. Judy accepts her professional responsibility and team accountability with the mandate to provide our students with quality learning experiences and support in finding pathways to good jobs and productive citizenship."

"Judy consistently demonstrates strong student advocacy and always places the success of our students foremost in all decision-making," said Susan Sproule, who succeeded Ms. Robinson as Dean, School of Health & Community Services at Durham.