

George Brown faculty member honoured for research into faculty training



A senior faculty member of George Brown College has been named recipient of a prestigious research award by a provincial association of college administrators.

Susan Heximer will receive the award for her capstone paper, *Learning from Training New Faculty in Outcomes-based Learning*. She will receive the CMU/OCASA Outstanding Research Award at a conference in June.

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

Three others were given honourable mention:

Melinda Kao, Manager Immigrant Services Community Outreach and Workforce Development at Humber College, for a paper *Indications of Success of Immigrant Access Projects: An Analysis of Return on Investment*;

Kimberly Liu, Program Coordinator of the Business department in the Centre for Continuous Learning at George Brown, for *The In-Class and Out of Class Challenges Instructors from the Continuing Education Division Encounter*; and

Ariel Tsui, a dental hygiene instructor at George Brown, for *Readiness of Dental Hygiene Graduates for Web-based or Computer-aided Learning*.

The CMU-OCASA Outstanding Research Award is presented annually to Ontario students in CMU's Master of Arts degree in Education for research related to Community Colleges in Ontario. Nominees are first selected by CMU faculty with the OCASA review panel selecting the final recipients.

Since 2008, Heximer has worked as a Faculty Facilitator in the Office of Organizational and Staff Development to support George Brown faculty in teaching and learning. In that role, she did follow-up research with participants in a training module in outcomes-based learning.

Outcomes-based learning focuses on skills development for practical application, and can involve authentic learning and assessment to support mastery in place of content-driven instruction and surface evaluation. At George Brown it is offered to new faculty as a tool to facilitate teaching and learning to prepare learners for success in their future careers. This learner-centred approach focuses on the knowledge, skills, and attitude that learners will need to apply what they have learned rather than the traditional transmission-oriented “sage on the stage”.

At George Brown, Heximer has been heavily involved in leadership development, and has chaired a number of college committees and helped launch new programs. She has co-written articles and a textbook chapter on supported education, and developed innovative curriculum in the college’s augmented education program.

She is a native of Niagara Falls, Ont. and has been on faculty at George Brown since 1985. In June, she will present a workshop based on her studies at the OCASA Professional Development Conference.

The award will be presented at the OCASA PD Conference June 24-25 at the Kingbridge Conference Centre & Institute in King City.

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For immediate release.

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