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Fanshawe Registrar wins praise from colleagues

A leader who graduated from Fanshawe College Professional Secretary program, and started her career at Fanshawe as a library assistant to become Registrar of the college, has been singled out for Honourable Mention in the OCASA 2008 Distinguished Administrator Award.

Jeanine Buss, who retired as Registrar at Fanshawe College in March, was cited by her colleagues who nominated her for the prestigious award as one who helped lead the institution in designing information systems and in advocating administrative change.

Winner of the award this year is Teresa Quinlin, Director, Financial Services at Niagara College. Awards will be presented at a special dinner held in conjunction with the 2008 OCASA Professional Development Conference June 24 at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa. OCASA is a voluntary professional association of college administrators in Ontario that advocates professionalism, excellence, and learning for the betterment of the community college system.

The OCASA Distinguished Administrator Award pays tribute to an administrator at an Ontario College who has demonstrated distinguished administrative performance at the local or regional level.

In her 35-year career at Fanshawe College, Ms. Buss has served in many capacities prior to becoming Registrar in 1996. Colleagues have praised her as “one who is known throughout our college – at all levels and across all departments – as a supportive, collegial, professional who lives to serve our students and our college.”

She began her career at a time when computers were little known to most staff, but has shown leadership in co-chairing a committee that revamped the college information systems. She has been involved in a number of other college committees, and chaired the Customer Service

Review Committee which made sweeping recommendations to Fanshawe's administrative model in the early 1990s.

She has been a member of OCASA since its inception, and has taken an active role in the Administrative Staff Association at Fanshawe.

In supporting her nomination to the award, Howard Rundle, President of Fanshawe College, said, "Jeanine . . . has the rare quality of showing compassion and knowing the odd time when a rule should be bent. This is extremely rare to find an individual who upholds the institution's integrity firmly."

L. Joy Warkentin, Senior Vice-President, Academic, also offered supportive praise: "She has consistently approached her work with a student centred approach built upon competence, teamwork and trust. She works with Chairs and faculty to promote fairness to students in admissions and promotion and has challenged us to push the Ministry with respect to promoting greater opportunities for students applying to oversubscribed programs."

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