

Megan Fenton of Georgian to receive 2017 OCASA Emerging Leader Award



Megan Fenton, Manager of Co-operative Education and Career Success Centre at Georgian College, has been named 2017 OCASA Emerging Leader.

The award will be presented June 26 during the OCASA Leaders and Innovators Conference at the Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City.

The annual award recognizes administrators who have been in college management position for five years or less and are influencing the college through leadership in five areas: initiator, team player, learner, collaborator and community builder.

In her first two years as manager of the Co-operative Education and Career Success department, Megan forged the staff into a strong team, and identified innovative ways to serve students and employers, including launching an entrepreneurial co-op program (eCo-op) for students to start/develop their business idea as their co-op experience. With the support of the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre, the students who participated in this eCo-op received one-on-one mentoring and support from an entrepreneur.

Beyond the college, she is involved in eCampus Ontario Work Integrated Learning Open Content Modules project. Working with colleagues from Niagara College, Algonquin College and Lambton College, the project is developing comprehensive open-access, learner-centered modules to support Work Integrated Learning preparedness for college students. She is involved in an impressive list of committees, and continues with professional development webinars and seminars. Since becoming a manager, she completed her Master of Arts in Integrated Studies from Athabasca University (2015) with a dual specialization in Educational Studies / Work, Organization and Leadership.

Other nominees for the award were:

- Krisha Stanton, Senior Manager, Enrolment and Financial Support Services, at Algonquin College, who is piloting a project as part of the OSAP Transformation and Net Tuition initiative;
- Greg Mapp, the Chair and Chief Flight Instructor at Sault College, who instituted an automated scheduling system and labour deployment changes that provides a pattern for implementation at other colleges;



- Catherine O'Donnell, Director of Security at Mohawk College, who developed a college alert system with the ability to identify location of persons through a mobile duress system – a first in an Ontario college or university.

The award, initiated in 2012, is evaluated by a committee of OCASA members, focusing the demonstration of skills to initiate projects, motivate and improve performance of others, participate in professional development, encouraging collaboration, and building community beyond immediate work assignment.

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OCASA membership is open to administrators within Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology/Institutes of Technology & Advanced Learning and other publicly funded colleges/institutions in Canada.

OCASA is committed to connecting, supporting and advancing management and leadership in Ontario colleges and supports its members in their professional goals through professional development, networking, mentoring and representation. OCASA works collaboratively and cooperatively with college partners while also upholding the highest standard of professional conduct, acting with excellence and integrity.

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