

2015/16 Dean's Awards, Faculty of Education

Dr. Linda Coles: Dean's Award for Excellence (non-tenure track faculty)

During her doctoral studies, Dr. Linda Coles worked with young children and made a lasting impression. In fact, upon the completion of her work she received an email from one of her grade three students, which stated, "I REALLY MISS YOU BEING WITH US." Linda continues to leave a lasting impression on those with whom she works as demonstrated in rave reviews from her students in the Faculty of Education. Their feedback includes comments such as: "You have fostered my love of learning..." and "thanks for an amazing start to our teaching careers. We will take everything you have taught us each day in the classroom." Linda has a depth and breadth of experiences. Putting her broad range of knowledge and experiences to work, she has taught, revised and developed curriculum in both undergraduate and graduate programs. She has also shared her expertise in literacy, diversity and curriculum development widely and generously in the national and international learning arenas. Linda's substantial contributions will have a lasting impact on the future of education within this province and elsewhere.

Dr. Patricia Canning: Dean's Award for Excellence in Research

Dr. Patricia Canning had a long and distinguished career as an educator and researcher. Through her work, she made extensive contributions to our knowledge and understanding of many of the issues facing children and their families. These contributions span a wide range of areas including childhood obesity, supports for children with special needs, factors influencing childcare quality, and the improvement of education and community programs and services. For example, Dr. Canning was the first to publish a study that looked at the prevalence of being overweight or obese in pre-school aged children in Canada. Her data have provided researchers and practitioners with much-needed baselines for monitoring trends and evaluating the impact of prevention and early intervention initiatives in Canada. Dr. Canning's extensive record of publication and research has had significant on the lives of children and families in Canada and other countries. In the last twenty-five years of her career, Dr. Canning had continuous funding for her research, reflecting the excellence of her work and the high esteem in which she was held by her peers.

Dr. Greg Harris: Dean's Award for Excellence in Research

Dr. Greg Harris has demonstrated excellence in research through his work on prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as well as the practice and conceptualization of counselling psychology in the K-12 school system. To name a few of his accomplishments, Dr. Harris has over 30 peer-reviewed journal publications, 26 peer-reviewed journal abstracts, 48 peer-reviewed conference presentations and has served on national and international journal editorial boards. In addition, his provincial and national contribution is demonstrated through his partnership with the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador (ACNL) as well as AIDS Service organizations (ASOs) in Atlantic Canada and beyond; research partnerships with other faculties and administrative units at Memorial University including the Faculties of Medicine and Psychology and the University Counselling Centre; his work with Universities Without Walls, an initiative to train the next generation of HIV researchers, and his work with undergraduate and graduate students in the Faculty of Education.

Ms. Tina Hunt: Dean's Staff Award for Service Excellence

Tina Hunt has been the "face of our graduate programs" within the Faculty of Education's graduate office for over 20 years. Tina is the most senior staff person in the graduate office and staff, faculty and the associate dean have come to rely on her and will consult with her about procedures, past practices and a multitude of other issues related to the office. This "corporate" knowledge is also recognized by students who regularly seek her out for advice and information regarding university regulations and procedures. She supports and guides our students as they navigate the regulations and procedures of a program to ensure they meet the requirements for their degree. At the same time she is kind and respectful to all our students, staff and faculty and genuinely shares in their joys and sorrows. She always treats them with dignity and respect, even in the most difficult circumstances. Tina's professionalism, her wealth of knowledge, her dedication and her strong work ethic combined with her dignified treatment of all individuals she encounters makes her a deserving recipient of this award.

Dr. Heather McLeod: Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Heather McLeod has contributed significantly to the Faculty of Education, the community and to the field of art education within the faculty and the province. Described as creative, approachable, motivating and enthusiastic about art and teaching, her students often comment on how much they learn and enjoy her courses. In 2013 Dr. McLeod earned national recognition from the Canadian Network of Innovation in Education for work in her creativity course. Dr.

McLeod is student-focused and experiential in her approach to teaching, and elicits from students the type of art they wish to explore during her course. She involves them in art-making activities, and her students have displayed their work in art exhibitions initiated, organized and curated by Dr. McLeod. As a PhD co supervisor she devoted many hours to assisting her student in development of an arts-based submission to a major national research funding organization. Dr. McLeod is sought as a speaker and presenter, and is also highly-regarded for her influential research and dissemination in community and school art education including a Chevron grant partnership with the Rooms, in which she was principal investigator.

Ms. Liza-Ann Tucker: Dean's Staff Award for Service Excellence

Liza-Ann is an outstanding professional who exemplifies a high level of commitment to Memorial University, and particularly, to the Faculty of Education. The many letters of support for Ms. Tucker detailed her creativity and attention to detail; enthusiasm and patience; and passion and commitment. Supporters spoke of her consistently high standards of performance, commitment to creation of a progressive, positive and motivating library environment and unparalleled resourcefulness and responsiveness to Education Library users. She was described as a person who consistently seeks opportunities to increase efficiencies, foster collaboration and cohesion and improve workplace and student experience. Ms. Tucker is regarded as a warm, engaging, friendly professional who has had a profound impact on our Education library and community. From hosting the annual children's Christmas party, to managing and maintaining the education library for almost two years after Alison Mews retired, to serving on several committees, Liza-Ann represents the spirit, innovation and creativity of Memorial's Education community. As the nominator so aptly described, Liza-Ann is the unsung hero of the Education Library.

Dr. Gabrielle Young: Dean's Award for Excellence in Engagement and Service

Dr. Young has been an active member of the Faculty of Education since her arrival at Memorial. She has participated in a large number and wide range of service activities, including serving as chair of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee, as a member of The Special Education Selection Committee, and as SSHRC Graduate Fellowship Reviewer. She was recipient of the *The President's Award for Outstanding Teacher Adjudicator* (Winter, 2014). In addition to her service to the faculty and university, she has also contributed her knowledge and efforts in supporting various groups in the community. For example, she has given numerous presentations at the Learning Disabilities Association Conference in St. John's, sharing her expertise on the use of Assistive Technology in supporting students with learning disabilities.

She co-authored a report for the Eastern School District scanning inclusive education practices in the school board. In all of her work, Dr. Young is known to bring a high degree of insight, professionalism, and commitment to her work, is highly-respected among her colleagues and very deserving of *The Dean's Award for Excellence in Engagement and Service*.