

**2014-2015 OCUFA TEACHING AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS  
CITATION FOR DR. TRENT TUCKER**

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## **CITATION FOR DR. TRENT TUCKER**

**Prepared and read by Judy AK Bornais, University of Windsor**

On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am delighted to present Dr. Trent Tucker with a 2014-2015 award in recognition of his excellence in teaching.

“Energizing and engaging,” “never static,” “encouraging and informative”, “inspiring”... these are just a sample of comments used to describe Dr. Tucker by his students, alumni, colleagues and business leaders. It is remarkably evident from his nomination package that he has distinguished himself through his innovative pedagogical practices, his dissemination of knowledge, including best practices in teaching and learning, and his outstanding dedication to professional development.

In his dossier, Trent wrote, “To me, teaching is...creating a learning environment for my students”. His drive to create a meaningful learning environment can be seen thorough his classroom activities, course assessments and in the learning spaces he creates to foster active learning. One of his colleagues wrote that he creates, “unique learning experiences that really make a difference to students and their engagement inside and outside the classroom”. An example can be seen as he makes lemonade and holds a Lemonade Stand in class, designed to introduce the Business Model Canvas to his students. Using active learning strategies and real-world applied learning scenarios into his teaching, Trent has been able to demonstrate to students how they can transform the world and make a difference. A former student wrote, “I actually felt compelled to pay attention. He found innovative ways to engage me and all of my classmates”. In 2013, Trent introduced the “Micro-Tyco” Business Challenge to North America by bringing it into his



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undergraduate classroom. From 11 teams in the first year of the program to an optional assessment method in 2014 which resulted in 90 teams, the \$1 seed money given to each student group generated over \$10,000 which was donated to WildHearts Foundation to help fund micro-finance loans for women entrepreneurs in the developing world. The impact of this program is stunning and as the CEO and Founder of the WildHearts group noted, "...his example has inspired universities in the UK to adopt Micro-Tyco into their programmes." Equally impressive is the CEO's comment, "I only wish I had a teacher like him when I studied business".

In addition to his classroom activities and course assessments designed to engage students in active learning, Trent has also reflected and researched the impact of classroom space and design on learning. After studying innovative classroom designs at Stanford, McGill and other universities, he proposed a novel classroom design and that would facilitate active learning opportunities. As his colleague wrote, "Prof. Tucker was also instrumental in the design and development of our College's "Transformational Learning Classroom" (also known as The Zone)". Trent seems to truly be "in the zone" as an educator, continually investigating, experimenting and adapting teaching methodologies to provide students with meaningful learning.

While some educators might be satisfied at making a significant impact on student learning, that is not enough for Trent. He recognizes that outstanding educators need to share their findings and knowledge, based on research and best practice, beyond the walls of their own institutions to the broader academic community. In fact, dissemination of knowledge is a part of Trent's teaching philosophy. He wrote, "To me, teaching is...the purposeful gathering and testing of new classroom ideas....sharing successes (and failures) with other teachers so we all learn together as we all have a common purpose". Trent's commitment to SoTL can be clearly seen through his conference presentation, videos and publications in the area of teaching and learning.



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While Dr. Tucker has distinguished himself as an educational leader through active learning pedagogy, innovative assessment methods and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, his dedication to his own professional development and life-long learning in the area of teaching and learning is exemplary. Although acknowledged already as an excellent teacher, Trent continues to self-reflect about how he teaches and more importantly what students learn. He has demonstrated on-going commitment to professional development as an educator by attending numerous workshops and completing a University Teaching Certificate program and Educational Leadership in Teaching Excellence programs accredited by SEDA. He is continually striving to find new and innovative ways to connect the classroom curricula to the real business world.

One student wrote, “It is amazing walking into a 3 hour class excited and leaving just as excited for the next week.” Just as your students are excited to attend your class, we are excited to honour you for your outstanding contributions to teaching both in and outside the classroom. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Trent Tucker on being recognized and awarded the prestigious OCUFA Teaching Award.