

**2018 OCUFA  
Status of Women and Equity  
Award of Distinction**

**Citation for Dr. Susan Hillock**

**OCUFA**

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario



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*Read by Cathy Chovaz, SWEC Vice Chair and Chair of the Selection Committee*

The Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction celebrates the outstanding contributions of OCUFA members whose work has advanced the interests of professors, academic librarians, and academic staff who are Indigenous, women, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, living with disabilities and/or belong to other historically marginalized groups.

The award recognizes those members dedicated to advancing inclusivity and equity on campus and beyond. Dr. Susan Hillock has been awarded this honour due to her long-standing commitment to advancing the interests of equity seeking groups in her research, service work, and advocacy. She is a scholar in the Department of Social Work at Trent University who uses a feminist lens to explore gender, sexuality, and anti-oppression training in social work. She is currently working on the first Canadian textbook about teaching sexuality in higher education, with a focus on queer sexualities, boys, masculinities, sexualities, sexuality and disability, and Indigenous views on sexuality.

Dr. Hillock has been steadfast in her commitment to equity throughout her career. At the University of British Columbia – Okanagan she was a member of an equity campaign that successfully fought for pay increases for all female-identified faculty members.

She has worked tirelessly to engage Trent University staff in discussions of equity in terms of gender and queer equality. In particular, she has focused on recruitment, hiring, and retention of faculty and staff, as well as the recruitment and retention of students.

Susan organized a campus-wide “Queering the Academy” campaign in conjunction with staff, community partners, and student groups. The goals of the campaign were to “warm up” campus climates, make them more welcoming and inclusive for all faculty, staff, and students, and dismantle cis-gendered/heterosexism, transphobia, homophobia, and discrimination. Following the campaign, Dr. Hillock developed concrete suggestions, examples, and reference lists for academic colleagues and university staff to use in order to “queer” their lectures, course materials, departments, offices, curriculum, and content.

As the founding director of the Department of Social Work at Trent University, Dr. Hillock led the development and implementation of all aspects of the new four-year Bachelor of Social Work program, working to ensure equity throughout all policies and processes. This included the creation of evaluations, curriculum, a student handbook, a faculty and staff handbook and recruitment, hiring, training, retention, and budgeting.

In 2016 and 2017, Susan led a group of 12 social work students who organized and fundraised to attend the International Women’s March on Washington in January 2017. The group filmed and subsequently created a documentary about the experience called



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*Achieving equality: Importance of social action. March on Washington.* This work is a small example of her dedication to mentoring students and her colleagues.

Susan also has an impressive history of service work, including her involvement as a vice-president of her health care union, chairing the Trent University Faculty Association equity committee, and actively participating in both Status of Women and Equity Committee and Canadian Association of University Teachers meetings and conferences. Her service and volunteer work extend beyond the academy to her work with the Peterborough Special Olympics, Kelowna's Seniors' Outreach Services, as a Rotary International Member and Director of Membership Services, and as a Board Director of the Central Okanagan Hospice Association.

It is clear that Dr. Hillock is motivated to make a difference in the lives of those people in her communities and that she is dedicated to equity work. For these reasons, and her impressive record of service work and advocacy, she is a natural choice to receive the Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction.