

2020 OCUFA Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction

Citation for Ciann Wilson

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario



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Read by Rahul Sapra, OCUFA President

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

Dr. Ciann Wilson has dedicated herself to social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout her academic life. She has a vision for community transformation and racial justice that informs her teaching, research, and mentorship and she motivates everyone around her to increase their own efforts in working towards racial and social justice on campus and beyond.

Her nominators recognize the toll that equity work can take and acknowledge the disproportionate burden often placed on racialized faculty to contribute to equity-based service work. Despite these realities, Ciann consistently makes herself available to offer sage counsel, to model anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices, and to use her platform to support and magnify the voices of BIPOC communities.

Ciann's contributions to Wilfrid Laurier University and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) are laudable. She has revised curriculum development with the aim of attracting and supporting racialized students and, through the university's Diversity and Equity Strategic Planning process, she has held the administration accountable for creating a safe and welcoming space in which faculty and staff can teach and work.

In the last three years, Ciann has been at the helm of major initiatives. She was instrumental in creating Laurier's new EDI Faculty Colleague positions, which were developed based on WLUFA's proposals to provide mentorship and support diversity for faculty at the Brantford and Waterloo campuses. Using an intersectional lens, she developed and executed anti-oppression training for all WLUFA representatives. Ciann also sat on the Search Committee for Wilfrid Laurier's Senior Advisor in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, where Ciann's contributions, leadership, and counsel forged important relationships between WLUFA and Laurier's EDI Community of Practice. These relationships will be instrumental in future conversations and work around EDI challenges in the association and institution.

In addition to her incredible service work on campus, Ciann is an engaged and active member of the broader community. Amongst her many community roles, she sits on the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area and is a volunteer organizer with the Loop Collective, which works to create creative learning spaces for Black queer and trans people in the Greater Toronto Area.

Ciann's dedication to community-based and action-oriented research is exemplary. Her record shows that she is making a profound impact in the lives of her colleagues, her students, and her broader community. Ciann's equity work is an inspiration to those around her and this short citation cannot begin to do justice to her contributions at Wilfrid Laurier. It is a pleasure to recognize her efforts with a Status of Women and Equity Award of Distinction.