2017-2018 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR PROFESSOR MICHELLE CRAIG

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"Contagious enthusiasm", a "positive influence", an "excellent educator who truly cares". These are just a few of the accolades used to describe Professor Michelle Craig, from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto.

A seasoned educator for 29 years, Michelle remains committed to enhancing her teaching. She has developed dozens of interactive coding exercises and instructional videos for students and continually tries new pedagogical approaches in her classroom and labs. However, for Michelle, it is not sufficient to only introduce new educational techniques and strategies, she also takes the time to conduct pedagogical research to assess their efficacy. Sharing this evidence is also important for Professor Craig who has widely disseminated these findings to peers and colleagues through publications and presentations.

In her teaching philosophy, she writes, "I want to address not only diversity of gender and race, but also diversity in ability, interest and prior experience" and she has done this both in her classroom as well as in the broader community. Recognizing and reading literature on the reluctance of female students to study computer science, Michelle developed a program called *Gr8 Designs for Gr8 Girls*. Initially a small program, Michelle received NSERC funding to expand the program to five other university campuses where over 1000 grade 8 girls were able to participate.

Making connections and applying learning to real world experiences is also important to Michelle. She led an Undergraduate Capstone Open-Source Project for six years which resulted in over 600 students from 31 different schools across Canada to contribute to the projects under the mentorship of industry partners.

Michelle also takes time to work with and mentor her colleagues. Faculty cited that Michelle observed their lectures and held facilitated discussions with students to solicit their input with the goal of providing meaningful feedback for their development. In fact, Michelle has implemented a number of community-building initiatives and programs to support the professional development of her colleagues including retreats, education research reading groups and discussions for evaluating teachings. She has also delivered numerous workshops on teaching and learning.

As one of the letters in her nomination stated, "Michelle Craig is a consummate educator with a long and distinguished record of university teaching, student mentoring, community outreach, education research and leadership in teaching and learning…her impact expands beyond U of T classroom". The committee concurs and so, on behalf of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am delighted to present Professor Michelle Craig with a 2017-2018 award.