



OCUFA

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

2018-2019 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR DR. SUE BAPTISTE



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Prepared and ready by Vincent Hui, Ryerson University

“Few and far between are the teachers who can inspire, engage, challenge, and provoke us into believing in ourselves and the pursuit of excellence and lifelong learning.” This quote, from one of Professor Baptiste’s students, epitomizes her outlook as a compassionate educator and innovative leader.

As a scholar, Professor Baptiste’s research generated millions of dollars in funding and countless dissemination opportunities. A common thread in her research is its resonance with Professor Baptiste’s desire to innovate the accessibility of occupational therapy, whether it is for students with disabilities or foreign professionals. She has made culture and diversity core components of her research and it cascades into her teaching. Over the years, she has developed online courses that go beyond simply dispensing knowledge, which are also sensitive to her students’ cultural and organizational differences. This sincere thoughtfulness is a consistent sentiment in Professor Baptiste’s teaching assessments.

Her teaching scores, which range from 6.5/7 to 7/7 (perfection), attest to her ability to authentically engage her students to safely and respectfully explore topics. From forming “conversation clusters” to generate mutuality through problem-based pedagogy to individual student meetings, Professor Baptiste has a portfolio of strategies to elicit the best from her students. She takes pride in teaching students in their first term and then “guiding them in their last weeks as they transition from student to novice practitioner.”

Beyond the classroom, Professor Baptiste is an innovative leader in Occupational Therapy. As the Vice President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, she developed national



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and international curricula adopted by academic and professional institutions in countries on every continent except Antarctica.

At a domestic level, when the credentials for practice mandated a master's degree, Professor Baptiste oversaw McMaster's Occupational Therapy program that was subsequently awarded the highest possible accreditation. She has served on numerous committees within the McMaster community from the Office of Student Affairs through to the Provost's office. Her leadership goes beyond the academic realm and into professional practice. As the founder of the Occupational Therapy Examination and Practice Preparation Certificate Program (OTepp) at McMaster University, she has been instrumental in helping internationally educated occupational therapists gain employment and licensure.

In her nomination package, a former student and colleague wrote: "Sue has had a powerful impact on my life and the lives of thousands of students and health professionals in their learning journeys. Her nearly 40 years of commitment to teaching, mentorship, and research in education is worthy of distinction."

On behalf of the OCUFA Awards Committee, please join me in congratulating Professor Baptiste, recipient of the 2018/2019 OCUFA Teaching Award.