



# OCUFA

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

## **2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards**

Citation for Dr. Kim Hellemans



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*Prepared by Vincent Hui, Ryerson University*

“When I grow up and start working, I hope I can be like Kim as I know I will better every person around me.” This quote from one of Professor Hellemans’ students epitomizes her impact on not only those she teaches and her colleagues, but the surrounding community and general public.

As a distinguished educator, Kim Hellemans has been awarded teaching distinctions including the *Favourite Faculty* award through to the Provost’s Teaching Fellowship. This is a reflection of her infectious enthusiasm to her students and colleagues alike.

In her classroom, she inspires her students to “build our neuroscience army.” She mobilizes her troops by providing innovative exercises, assessments, and media. From getting her students to paint their tongues blue to count taste buds through to her use of digital media, including animations, videos, and her successful *Minding the Brain* podcast, Professor Hellemans has not only made learning neuroscience accessible but empowered her students to become supportive learners. Her early adoption of peer-assisted learning to promote greater engagement and peer support to students, both in class and online, has resulted in an exceptional increase in motivation, engagement, and performance in her program. Her students applaud her impact, enthusiasm, and genuine concern for their welfare in the twelve courses she has developed at Carleton University. Objectively, her teaching evaluations are exemplary, consistently exceeding the standards of her Department and in some instances of even attaining a flawless 5.0 on a 5-point scale.

Unsurprisingly, she has played a major role in sharing her insights on such teaching successes in the various initiatives she developed and implemented within Carleton University, including the *Welcome to My Classroom*, *Teaching Mentor Program*, and the *Teaching and Learning Council (TLC)* to engage faculty and students alike in developing and promoting learning success. The impact of these programs has led to a collective improvement in teaching evaluation averages across her department as well as higher student retention rates and faster rates of graduation. As a distinguished colleague states: “The university is a better place because of Kim’s efforts, and I can attest that I am personally a better teacher for listening to what Kim has to say.”

With over 30 teaching-related publications and conference presentations in the past decade, her teaching scholarship is as impressive as her teaching accomplishments. Professor Hellemans’ impact extends beyond her department and into the entire campus and community. From initiating the *Stigma ends at CU* and *#JustOneThing* campaign in support of mental health to her local outreach activities including *Brain Awareness Week*, and *Recovery Day Ottawa*, Professor Hellemans has made the world her classroom.

In her nomination package, a former student wrote: “One day I wish to write back to you, when I have achieved my goals...you inspired me to pursue and teach and motivate others that learning can be fun.” On behalf of the OCUFA Awards Committee, please join me in congratulating Professor Kim Hellemans, recipient of a 2019-2020 OCUFA Teaching Award.