

**2010-2011 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR WINNER DR. RICHARD LEBLANC**

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CITATION FOR DR. RICHARD LEBLANC

read by Patti Ryan, York University

On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, I am honoured to present Dr. Richard Le Blanc with a 2010-2011 teaching award. As an Associate Professor in the School of Administrative Studies at York University and an adjunct faculty member at Osgoode Law School, Dr. LeBlanc has distinguished himself as both an exceptional teacher and an extraordinary leader in his field. His letters of support come from a wide array of constituents – students, alumni, faculty colleagues, teaching assistants, administrators, librarians, clients, and other groups who, in the words of his nominators, have experienced the “magic” of Dr. LeBlanc.

Engaging. Energetic. Enthusiastic. Exciting. These are among the most frequently used adjectives in his letters of support, and they offer a glimpse of what it is like to be in Dr. LeBlanc’s classroom. A former student writes that “in his class, everyone is paying attention,” while another notes that his “sheer passion for his subject is contagious.” His lectures and presentations are lively, thoughtfully-prepared, and purposefully designed to critically engage and challenge listeners even when the material is complex and the audience is large. One supporter recalls that on one memorable occasion, Dr. LeBlanc had audience members “literally jumping out of their seats to engage in the discussion.”

Dr. LeBlanc’s supporters reserve particular praise for his teaching in the area of Corporate Governance. Several supporters draw attention to his commitment to ensuring that course materials are timely, engaging, relevant, and to his practice of incorporating real-world scenarios into learning. This is captured beautifully by a former student who writes that Dr. LeBlanc “was not determined just to teach a subject, he was determined to let us live it.” His adeptness at weaving up-to the-minute, real-world examples into course theory made, as one student recalls, “every class feel like a real



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board meeting..” The value of this approach is illustrated in a letter from a former student who writes that “the present board on which I serve as Chair has recently faced serious challenges...and the knowledge and insight I gained from Richard’s course was essential in wading through them.”

Dr. LeBlanc’s achievements in the area of course and curriculum development are also impressive. A colleague notes that one of the most striking aspects of his dossier is the sheer number and scope of courses he has taught, and the wide range of institutions in which he has taught them. Since his arrival at York, he has been responsible for the development or re-design of seven innovative courses in the areas of law, corporate governance and business ethics. Dr. LeBlanc also played a key role in establishing curriculum for a new Masters of Financial Accountability program, which is described by one supporter as “ground-breaking curriculum not currently offered anywhere else in the world.” Currently, he is leading the development of a graduate program in Corporate Governance at York. A colleague in the School of Administrative Studies notes, that she is “certain he will be successful in this endeavour, as his expertise and passion in this domain are second to none.”

Finally, it is well known that the very best teaching transcends the classroom, and it is in this regard that Dr. Leblanc has made the most powerful impact on the lives of his students, colleagues. Numerous supporters describe the meaningful ways in which Dr. LeBlanc has provided support to them outside of the classroom, and read collectively, the letters convey a generosity of spirit and a dedication to mentorship that guides much of Dr. LeBlanc’s work. Whether he is supporting the work of part-time colleagues in his department, taking time out of a hectic schedule to meet with current and former students, or sharing his expertise in myriad ways with the professional community, Dr. LeBlanc consistently exemplifies the spirit of good teaching and life-long learning.

Dr. LeBlanc’s nominators quite rightly observe, “extraordinary teaching should be celebrated.” And so, to Dr. LeBlanc, I say, celebrate. Your pedagogical accomplishments, unwavering commitment to students and to the academic and



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professional community, and your passion for your work make you a most deserving candidate for this award. I join the Committee in offering my most sincere congratulations.