



OCUFA

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

2016-2017 OCUFA TEACHING AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS

CITATION FOR MINDY THUNA



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The members of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee are delighted to present a 2017 Academic Librarianship Award to Mindy Thuna, head librarian at the Engineering and Computer Science Library, University of Toronto. It is very clear from the enthusiastic letters written in support of Mindy's nomination that she has a highly positive influence on the students, faculty and librarian colleagues at her university and in the broader community.

Mindy's contributions to the advancement of information literacy skills at the University and the efforts she has made in collaborating with teaching faculty in redesigning teaching and curriculum for numerous departments are particularly striking. Any academic librarian will tell you that one of the greatest challenges they face in their role within the institution is the embedding of research and information skills into the curriculum, wherein faculty and librarians work together in developing course content and assignments. Such an arrangement, as studies have shown, is instrumental in fostering student academic success. In this regard, Mindy is an inspiration to librarians and faculty everywhere. Listed in her CV are over fifteen courses in which she has served as co-instructor and collaborated in developing lectures, tutorials and assessment tools. Mindy was also one of the first librarians at the University of Toronto to sit on a departmental curriculum committee. A curriculum officer writes: "The result and impact of Mandy's participation on this committee was multi-faceted both in the short and long term. The Biology Department saw its program learning outcomes and course objectives supported by appropriate curriculum content and delivery. Consequently, the University will see quality improvement and stronger, productive graduates overall."

Mindy's unwavering dedication to student academic success—and the success of others-- is evident throughout her dossier. She has partnered with a number of departments on campus, including the Office of Student Transition, to help smooth the journey of first year students into academia. During a secondment to the University's Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation Mindy applied her breadth of knowledge as a librarian and a skilled teacher to develop and facilitate practical teaching skills sessions that were well-received by faculty and instructors.



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In addition to supporting students and faculty at the University of Toronto, Mindy plays an integral role in supporting her peers in their pedagogical research and librarianship efforts and it is evident that those who have had the opportunity to work with her have been enriched by the experience. Mindy was the driving force in the efforts by University of Toronto librarians to develop a coherent and flexible approach to the new Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Framework for Higher Education, a set of standards that guide academic librarians in the teaching of information literacy skills. The introduction of these new standards, which replaced an older version, resulted in confusion amongst academic librarians internationally as to how they should be adopted. Mindy worked closely with librarians at the U of T and across a number of universities in Ontario to develop a series of collaborative workshops, publications and conference presentations to help librarians decipher the new Framework and use it in practical and effective ways. Librarians throughout the province are indebted to Mindy for her work in this area.

“Mindy is exceptional, and I do not use that term lightly”, writes a professor at UTM. “I have never met an individual so proactive in pursuing every available avenue to positively impact their institution and their academic community.”

Congratulations, Mindy, on receiving this award.