

**2009-10 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR SUSAN McCAHAN**

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Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
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Read by Birbal Singh, Lakehead University

The OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee is very pleased to present a 2009-2010 Teaching Award to Professor Susan McCahan, Chair, First Year Program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto.

Professor McCahan is well known as an outstanding instructor whose concern for her students goes beyond her use of innovative new approaches to explain engineering concepts to her students. She always takes a proactive role in ensuring that all her students are given the tools to reach their full potential, ensuring their development and achievement in the academic environment and beyond. Professor McCahan's tireless commitment to teaching and her talent in this area has been recognized both within the University of Toronto and beyond. She is the recipient of several awards including a President's Teaching Award at the University of Toronto, a 3M Fellowship, and a Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education from Engineers Canada.

Professor McCahan has made outstanding contributions to curriculum development and the improvement of teaching not only at the University of Toronto, but in universities across Canada, through consultation, workshops and seminars, and the publishing and presenting of her research. She has pioneered two courses in teaching and learning for engineering graduate students; "Engineering Teaching and Learning" for Ph.D. students who are interested in pursuing an academic career, and "Professional Education and Instruction" for Master's students. These unique, innovative courses have engineering students learn and then apply learning theory and methods in academic and industry based contexts.

While Prof. McCahan's impressive teaching evaluations and her professional record of involvement in engineering education-related activities serve as compelling evidence of her suitability for this award, the most important measure of her success lies in the on-going impact she has had on the lives of her students. One of her former students wrote "I owe much of my current success to her patience and dedication as a teacher and mentor. She is an extremely talented professor, who is committed to the development of others and the improvement of engineering education." We agree with this characterization, and honour Professor Susan McCahan with this award for excellence in teaching, which she has demonstrated throughout her academic career.