

# OCUFA

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

## **2022-2023 OCUFA Teaching Award**

**Citation for Véronic Bézaire**

**Prepared by:**

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On behalf of the Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee, we are honoured to recognize Véronic Bézaire as a 2023 OCUFA Teaching Award recipient. Véronic holds an Instructor III position in the department of Chemistry at Carleton University, which acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Véronic confesses that she has been teaching since she was 3 years old, conducting class with Hippo and Baby Giraffe and that her inspirations started at home with her parents. This strong foundation has fashioned an educator who is dedicated to enhancing course design to better promote student success. Under the leadership of Véronic, the Food Science program has established annual review workshops, program and curriculum alignment, e-portfolios for the assessment of learning outcomes, and a resource toolkit. As a result, other faculty from the Department of Science have implemented Véronic's initiatives. As one of her colleagues noted, "Véronic made us appreciate that if we did not reflect on our teaching, we will fail as instructors." Véronic insists that this reflection goes beyond classroom instruction to include assessment, course alignment, and program alignment all for the betterment of the student's education and fostering teaching excellence in her peers.

Véronic believes her role as an instructor is not complete until her students have the skills and confidence to succeed. To this end, Véronic emphasizes experiential learning, where students work in groups, learn through discussion, and are co-creators of content. After years of online learning that deprived students of hands-on dexterity, Véronic developed a boot camp to boost lab skills. Véronic also developed a co-op program to provide students with opportunities to build their skills and she continues to foster and advise these students well after their placements. In the classroom, descriptions of active learning, safe environments, highly organized course structure, respect, inclusiveness, and encouragement pepper the many comments from students and peers. Everything Véronic does in the classroom, in designing curricula, and in

fostering faculty growth in teaching reflects her teaching philosophy principles. She believes in learner engagement, whether the learner is a student or peer. She holds herself and her peers to be accountable as inspiring figures who provide learners with the tools necessary for success in coursework, employment and dealing with life's demands.

Véronic states that teaching is about continual improvement, hence she collaborates extensively with the Career Services, Teaching and Learning Services, and the Health and Bioscience Librarian to re-evaluate their combined initiatives, the outcomes of which have resulted in numerous keynote speaking engagements, the Students as Partners Program, and a widely used Learning Outcomes Development Process and Toolkit.

Through this award, we are pleased to recognize Véronic's impactful, innovative change to Carleton and the vital role she plays in helping others achieve their full potential.

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**Every year since 1973, the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship awards have honoured the exceptional achievements made by Ontario university teachers and academic librarians.**

**At OCUFA, we believe that the quality of education at our universities depends on the professors and academic librarians whose teaching and work touches the life of every student who embarks on a journey of higher learning.**

**Professors and academic librarians play a vital role in our universities, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow, while pursuing the new ideas and knowledge that enrich all of our lives and chart a path to a brighter future.**