

**2009-10 OCUFA TEACHING AND
ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP AWARDS
CITATION FOR DONALD LESLIE**

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Read by Zopito Marini, Brock University

The OCUFA Teaching Award Committee is delighted to present Professor Donald Leslie with the 2010 award in recognition of his excellence in teaching.

Professor Leslie is a faculty member in the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor, where he has distinguished himself by his outstanding educational leadership in its many forms, such as continuous involvement in curriculum development, teaching innovations, mentoring of students and junior colleagues, and thoughtful advocacy of increased accessibility to university education for all.

Colleagues mention the fact that a major objective of Professor Leslie's teaching is to foster critical engagement with the social world and to find ways to make a difference. There is no better place for Professor Leslie's educational leadership to shine than in the many roles he plays in the development of the Disability Studies field. His dedication, commitment, and tenacious leadership were critical in the founding of the Canadian Association of Disability Studies. One colleague remarked that, "Dr. Leslie has been instrumental in bringing the issues affecting persons with disabilities to the forefront. He has championed the need for accommodation and accessibility within the university, community, and country through his work as an educator and activist."

Students describe his classroom as a reflective and thoughtful place, where differences are embraced, valued as opportunities for learning. In response to the prompt, "One thing I like about this class is..." one student wrote, "it leaves room for difference of opinion. I value difference in people, the way others think, and I think that we can learn a lot from those that don't think alike." Another student noted Professor Leslie's generosity in sharing his own experiences in the creation of an inclusive and vibrant learning environment, in which the learning needs of each student are of paramount importance. Finally, another student remarked that, "The wide variety of class experiences offered by Professor Leslie provided a strong base on which to build my social work values, knowledge, and skills. His creative, systematic



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marking schemes, revealing areas of strengths and weakness within each student, were highly instrumental in guiding my thinking towards effective social work practice.”

Professor Leslie is a passionate teacher, a reflective mentor and an outspoken advocate of and role model for inclusive practice and social justice, and we are proud to honour him with an OCUFA Teaching Award. Congratulations!