



University
of Windsor

Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility

IDeA Competition

The University of Windsor, through the Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility, organized the second annual Innovative Designs for Accessibility (IDeA) student competition for the 2016-2017 academic year. The competition challenges students to identify accessibility related - barriers and create inclusive, practical, cost-effective and unique solutions to them. The solutions had to address one, or several, barriers to accessibility identified by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA), which are: organizational/systemic, architectural/physical, information and communications, technology, and attitudinal. **A third-place award was presented to Joshua Ndolo with the Autonomous Wheelchair design** and the first-place winner was Nyasha Kapfumvuti with the ExoLeg design.

OHREA Awards

The 2016 OHREA Awards open house and awards ceremony was held on December 9, and celebrated the world of individuals committed to advancing human rights, social justice, diversity, inclusivity, employment equity and accessibility at the University of Windsor.

The *Accessibility Award*, given to persons who have contributed to increasing accessibility on campus, was presented to Dr. Don Leslie. Dr. Leslie developed and taught the first Social Work and Disability Studies course in the School of Social Work, as well as collaborated with Psychology, English, Education, St. Claire College and the disabilities community to establish an Undergraduate Disability Studies Degree program here at the University.

The *Employment Equity Award*, given to persons who have contributed to the advancement of employment equity at the University, was presented to Ms. Gwen Ebbett. Ms. Ebbett concluded her term as Dean of the Library on June 30, 2015, and throughout her time was a founding member of the Employment Equity Coordinating Committee (EECC). She played a pivotal role in two University-wide Employment System Reviews.

The *Human Rights and Social Justice Award*, given to persons who have contributed to fostering a culture of respect for human rights at the University or have worked towards the advancement (in the University community) of social justice at the local to global levels, was presented to Engineers Without Borders. The University of Windsor chapter of Engineers Without Borders hosts an annual Run to End Poverty to raise money for water filtration systems in Kenya with their venture LishaBora Hydroponics. They have numerous teams working to implement initiatives around the community, including a Youth Engagement Team which presents at local high schools.

The *OHREA Award*, given to persons who have contributed to the advancement of culture, diversity and inclusivity at the University of Windsor, was awarded to Dr. Erica Stevens Abbitt. Dr. Stevens Abbitt is the current Director of the Humanities Research Group, and a professor in Dramatic Art. She works to link gender, sexuality, and race throughout her teaching and practice, and has been an advocate for greater accessibility on campus.

Accessibility Awareness Day

Accessibility Awareness Day 2017 was held on March 2nd in the CAW Student Centre and focused on "Accessibility in Your Passion." These speakers presented from a variety of accessibility standpoints, as well as a wide range of 'passions' within their lives. Keynote speaker **Dr. Temple Grandin** spoke on accessibility in her passion for the welfare and humane treatment of animals, with personal insights on dealing with accessibility. Diane Wintermute from ARCH Disability Law spoke on behalf of accessibility in the post-secondary environment and how to find equality in education. Diana Semaan and Lisa Allison from John McGivney Children's Centre spoke on behalf of embracing disabilities and promoting inclusion in everyone's daily life. Nicole Daignault from UWindsor Recreation spoke on behalf of "Modified" and "Assisted Yoga" and how inclusiveness can be adapted in physical activities. Anna Marrocco spoke on behalf of improving access to preventative care services to those with disabilities, which is important in increasing health overall. Dr. Laverne Jacobs and Shanae Soor spoke on behalf of the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor, focusing on disability advocacy within the law. The final speakers featured Student Counselling Centre Representative Lauren O'Driscoll, Director of Employee Services in Human Resources Cheryl Paglione, and two fourth year nursing students Zeinab Makki and Kristyn Zioutis. The group spoke on different methods for making mental health support accessible for the campus community, including the WellTrack online assisted therapy resource, student counselling services, and faculty and staff resources.

Celebration of Nations

The Celebration of Nations festival took place on March 9th, in the CAW Student Centre. This year's celebration of the rich cultural diversity that exists within the campus community and Windsor - Essex County featured **a flag parade**, performances, demonstrations, and displays of food, dance, dress, and music from a variety of cultures. Heritage celebrations from Iran, China, El Salvador, India, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Nepal, and Palestine are just a few of those which were presented by students. We are happy to celebrate another successful year of promoting awareness of cultural differences and learning opportunities.

Run for Rocky

This year marked the 5th and final year of the "Run for Rocky" event in downtown Windsor, which was inspired by Rocky Campana who passed away in 2012 after attempting to take his own life. The charity run/walk/roll has raised funds to facilitate Gay-Straight Alliances in local high school and post-secondary school systems, and increase mental health awareness programs and youth suicide prevention programming.