

Citation for Merit Award for Outstanding Service

Dr. Charlene VanLeeuwen

Written by: Mackenzie Johnson

I feel like an apt way to describe Dr. Charlene VanLeeuwen's role at UPEI – and I hope she agrees with me – is that she tries to make the rest of the faculty's jobs easier. As the coordinator of the Teaching and Learning Centre, Charlene and her team work to equip faculty and other instructors with tools and techniques to improve their teaching and enrich the quality of students' learning. Now, while one might consider this work to be service in itself, naturally Dr. VanLeeuwen has been very involved with service to UPEI and the FA beyond her professional practice. Among her roles past and present, she currently represents UPEI on the Association of Atlantic Universities' Coordinating Committee on Faculty Development and is on the Coordinating Committee for the 2023 Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference (happening next month in Charlottetown!), and she has previously been a Member-at-Large on the FA Executive Committee, chaired the FA Awards and Scholarships Committee, and served on the FA Equity (Sub)Committee.

But wait.

There's more.

Dr. Charlene VanLeeuwen serves and has served in her community as – among other roles – a certified swim meet official, a board member of the Central Queens Clippers Soccer Club, a volunteer in the 2012 Canada-Wide Science Fair, and a Lector and Eucharistic Minister in her church. Her service even has some international reach, as she currently sits on the board of Farmers Helping Farmers, a PEI-based NGO supporting agricultural development in rural Kenya.

Dr. Charlene VanLeeuwen, you are a champion for quality education at UPEI, and that's just your day job. In recognition of your years of prolific service and

dedication to your community, the Faculty Association is pleased present you with the Merit Award for Outstanding Service for 2023.