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## Georgian College faculty member receives first CMU - OCASA outstanding research award

A faculty member from Georgian College has been named recipient of the first annual CMU-OCASA Outstanding Research Award.

Martha J. MacEachern of Georgian is the award recipient for her Master's Degree paper *Impact of Structured Orientation Programs on the Teaching Practice of Part-Time Faculty in the Ontario Community College System*.

The award is sponsored jointly by Central Michigan University (CMU) and Ontario College Administrative Staff Association (OCASA) to recognize the high quality of research being conducted in Ontario by CMU graduate students that impact the development of the colleges. This Outstanding Research Award will be presented annually to Ontario students in CMU's Master of Arts degree in Education, with a Community College concentration, for conducting outstanding research related to Community Colleges in Ontario. Nominees are first selected by CMU faculty with the OCASA review panel selecting the final recipients.

Honourable Mention this year was Ruth Hickey, Manager Open Learning Centre, Humber Institute, for a paper entitled *An Online Student's Perception of Interaction in an Online Course* Other nominees included Tracy L. Goode, ESL, Georgian College, with a paper entitled *Conducting A Good Practices Audit with Community College ESL Faculty*; Robert Richardson, Photo Technical Centre, Humber Institute, with *The Learning Spaces are the Message*; and Louise Baird of D. Gary Gibson & Associates with *The Development of a Student Identity as a Means of Reducing Student Attrition*.

Ontario College Administrative Staff Association (OCASA) is the voluntary association that supports and promotes the interests and needs of the province's community college administrators. On behalf of its members, OCASA advocates professionalism, excellence, and learning for the betterment of the community college system. It was formed in 1996, and offers members access to professional development, networking, and career and legal advice through its website, a bi-annual journal, and an annual professional development conference.

Founded in 1892, Central Michigan University is currently ranked as the 10<sup>th</sup> most productive small research university in the United States and has for over 30 years offered master's degree programs for Canadian educators. The Master of Arts degree in Education with a Community College concentration is mainly taught by Canadian faculty at local Ontario colleges and is specifically designed to address a Canadian perspective of education. Currently, CMU is offering this Master's degree at: Durham College, George Brown College, Georgian College, Humber College, and Loyalist College.

*For immediate release.*

*The Capstone abstracts and photographs of all nominees are available for the media on request.*

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