



AODA 10th Anniversary Champion
Award Nomination Form



Submit completed form to accessibility@amcto.com

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|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Nominee contact information | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |
| First Name Terry | Last Name McQuaid | |
| Name of Organization (if applicable) Seneca College | Position/Title (if applicable) Director, Counseling & Accessibility | |
| Home Address | | |
| Street No. / Name | | Unit/suite |
| City/Municipality | Postal Code | Telephone Number (daytime) |
| Email christine.blake-durie@senecacollege.ca | | |
| Nominator (Your) contact information (You may be contacted for verification, clarification purposes): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |
| First Name Christine | Last Name Blake-Durie | |
| Name of Organization (if applicable) Seneca College | Position/Title (if applicable) Dean of Students | Telephone Number (daytime) -- |
| Email | | |
| Second Nominator contact information (You may be contacted for verification, clarification purposes): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | | |
| First Name Joy | Last Name McKinnon | |
| Name of Organization (if applicable) | Position/Title (if applicable) Vice President, Academic | Telephone Number (daytime) |
| Email | | |

Achievement Description

Describe what the person did through one project or more projects over time, how they did it, and how their efforts improved accessibility for people with disabilities in their community. Please include details about how the nominee demonstrated leadership, creativity and collaboration in their project(s). (The achievement description should be a maximum of 675 words).

Dr. Terry McQuaid is a Registered Clinical Psychologist and is the Director of Counseling and Accessibility Services at Seneca College. Terry leads a staff of 32 in providing individual counseling, instructional strategy training and accommodation planning for students with mental health issues and/or disabilities. She is also responsible for academic counseling, assessment of program needs and student abilities and assessment of learning problems for students in academic jeopardy at the College.

Since her arrival at Seneca in 2012, Terry has worked, in her leadership capacity, to make significant enhancements to how we support the accessibility of students inside and outside of the classroom. Terry is dedicated to ensuring that every student is offered the same opportunity to excel in their program and that no one be held back due to a lack of support or resources. Terry possesses extensive experience in the areas of counseling and accessibility, based on her previous posts with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), York University and York Region District School Board. Her experience and leadership have set Seneca on a new path to offering leading edge student supports for Ontario's post-secondary institutions.

Terry's commitment to advancing mental health and accessible supports for persons with disabilities in her community has made a significant impact. Throughout her career, she has worked with marginalized and/or at-risk groups through her volunteer and professional pursuits. Terry has advised a number of community-based organizations and committees with a focus on improving quality of life for those with disabilities and mental health challenges including: Accessibility Advisory Council, Tropicana Community Services (Community Service Advisory Board Member), Elms Community School and Pool and the Spectrum Mental Health Clinic.

Currently, Terry is working to increase accessible learning opportunities and generate innovative programming and delivery approaches at Seneca. She is the lead on the College's Accommodate Project which involves the development of a new web-based online booking, record and resource system for students using the Counseling and Accessibility department's services. Once the system is up and running, students will have the ability to electronically upload information, access class notes and student resources. The next phase of the project will include a test centre module designed to support students and faculty with respect to accommodating all levels of ability. The Accommodate Project also takes into account specific student needs and empowers them to take the lead on their accommodation requests. The episodic nature of some disabilities, such as mental health challenges or chronic illness, means that some students miss or are unable to attend appointments or classes. However, this new system will enable students to have greater control of their academic accommodations through the hands-on management of their information.

Terry has worked to tirelessly provide a strong platform for Seneca's counselors and staff to transfer knowledge and increase collaboration. Our interdisciplinary partnerships, many of which Terry fosters or manages, help to increase awareness of the challenges our students face and help us respond to their needs. The reduction of accessibility barriers across College departments has meant that students and staff of all abilities are better able to engage and participate in our community. Terry has become a champion for accessibility and a driver of meaningful dialogue across the College on issues of mental health and disability. She has led discussions that have opened avenues for all students to be successful. For example, the provision of specialized accessible furniture and equipment across Seneca including desks, electronic kiosks, Hoyer Lifts and portable ramps has made a difference to countless students seeking to access post-secondary education without barriers. Terry has worked closely with academic departments to advocate for accessible resources to be put in place to address diverse student needs. Her contributions and advocacy have improved the experience of many Seneca students and her work outside Seneca continues to benefit thousands across the Greater Toronto Area.

Terry and her committed team work hard to decrease stigma associated with mental health challenges and disability across the College and to increase the capacity of front-line staff to respond to youth and adults with highly complex issues. Terry's impact at Seneca has been recognized at all levels of the institution. Terry is dedicated to ensuring that every student is offered the same opportunity to excel in their program and not be held back due to a lack of support or resources. New standards have been set at Seneca, and thanks to Terry, hundreds of our students will benefit. For Seneca and her community, Terry is truly an accessibility and inclusiveness champion.