

Subject: Dean's Community Update - November 14, 2019

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 1:58:58 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: OISE Dean

To: 'DO-ALLFACULTY-OISE-L@LISTSERV.UTORONTO.CA', do-allstaff-oise-l: Dean's Office - All Staff superlist, do-allstudents-oise-l: Dean's Office - All Students superlist

Dear OISE Community,

It has been a very busy term with several administrative and faculty search activities along with efforts that are underway for the program reviews under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance process. There are a number of additional items of information and update in this community note that I hope you will take a moment to review.

Distinguished Professor

I am very pleased to announce that **Professor Marlene Scardamalia** of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning has been named **Distinguished Professor of Knowledge Innovation & Technology** for a five-year term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024. The University of Toronto's Distinguished Professor Award was created "to advance and recognize individuals with highly distinguished accomplishments and those who display exceptional promise, who maintain an extraordinary level of activity in their research and scholarly work and have achieved pre-eminence in their field." Granted to a select number of faculty members across the University, this prestigious award is made following nomination by the Faculty and review and approval by a Provostial committee.

Professor Scardamalia recently finished her final term as President's Chair in Education and Knowledge Technologies, which she held from 2002 to 2019. Since 2000, she has been Director of the Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology (IKIT), a global network of scholars committed to the advancement of knowledge building technology and practices in all sectors of society. Over a long career, Professor Scardamalia has continually distinguished herself as an innovative, visionary scholar of national and international repute, and has made significant advances in Knowledge Building theory, pedagogy, and technology. In addition to ground-breaking publications and major funded research projects, Professor Scardamalia has been internationally recognized as a leader in education and knowledge technologies by prestigious awards from organizations such as the World Cultural Council, ORION, Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, and the Ontario Psychological Association. The breadth of impact of her work is also reflected by honorary doctorates and diplomas and numerous fellowships and memberships in leading organizations in education and human development. Please join me in congratulating Professor Scardamalia on her prestigious appointment.

William Davis Chair

I am also pleased to announce the reappointment of **Professor Leesa Wheelahan** to the **William G. Davis Chair in Community College Leadership** for a second five-year term from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. The Davis Chair was established in 1999 to support and recognize distinguished and relevant expertise in Community College Leadership in OISE's Higher Education program, and has been held by Professor Wheelahan since she joined OISE in 2014. Appointment to this esteemed Chair is made following review by a departmental committee and approval by the Dean and the Provost.

Professor Wheelahan is a widely cited scholar with an international reputation for outstanding work on the contributions made by postsecondary education to social justice, and on pathways between

and within educational sectors and the labour market. During her first term as Davis Chair, she distinguished herself through her coordination of (and supervision within) the Community College PhD program, which includes college presidents, vice-presidents and other leaders, leading 8 successfully funded research projects on pathways between colleges, universities and the labour market, and developing a website focused on the policy development associated with this research. Please join me in congratulating Professor Wheelahan on this outstanding achievement.

UofT Mental Health Survey

The task force on student mental health wishes to thank everyone who participated in the Phase 1 and 2 Outreach and Engagement activities. The Task Force has posted a [Draft Summary of Themes](#) and invites all members of the University community to review it and provide feedback. The final version of the themes will be shared on Provost's website as the Task Force begins preparing its report for the President and Provost in December 2019.

In addition to several on-campus events that are taking place this week, there is the opportunity for our community to respond to the [Online form which is open November 7 – November 25, 2019](#). In the meantime, if you have any questions or prefer to provide feedback directly, please contact studentmentalhealth@utoronto.ca.

United Way Day

On **Wednesday November 27th from 12-2pm** in the Nexus Lounge, please join us for the OISE Annual United Way Fundraising Lunch. Come out and enjoy some chilli (with vegan and gluten friendly options) and support the United Way! It will be fun, delicious and for a great cause. The lunch will be served by OISE's academic leadership team!

OISE Winter Wonderland and Community Skate

Back by popular demand! We're starting the holidays off right with the return of OISE Winter Wonderland and Community Skate on **Wednesday, December 11th from 5:00-7:00pm** at the Varsity Centre Arena. Catch up with OISE faculty, staff, alumni and students over a cup of hot chocolate and treats. Prizes are available for winning off-ice games and holiday treats will be offered. Other fun surprises to be announced during the event.

Bring your friends and families – all are welcome to attend this indoor event! Free skate and helmet rental will be available, but bring your own if possible as numbers are limited. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

OISE Wellness

You can now follow @OISEWellness on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates on weekly sessions, special events, and other resources. This will hopefully make it easier to receive event reminders and help us build a community around wellness. If social media is your thing, please go give those pages a follow and share them with those who might be interested in keeping updated with all of the great events and activities we have planned for the year.

For Students, if you haven't registered yet for the CCR program, please find links and instructions to register on the OISE Wellness website at https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/wellness/Co-Curricular_Credit_Opportunity_for_Students/index.html. Please remember to sign in and bring your card to have it signed.

For Staff and Faculty, please mark your calendars and save the date for OISE's upcoming Faculty and

Staff Winter Wellness Day on Wednesday February 26, 2020. More details to follow and we hope to see you there!

With the wintery weather arriving much earlier than expected, this brings with it a reminder of how quickly this term will come to a close and the holiday break will be here. Please keep in mind that the OISE building will be completely closed from December 21, 2019 – January 5, 2020. I hope that the rest of this term goes well and I look forward to seeing you at some of our holiday events.

Be well,

Glen

Glen A. Jones, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean