



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College employee receives provincial recognition for his work with Accessibility

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON December 18, 2015) Sault College is pleased to announce that Matt Trainor, Director of Student Services has received the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 10th Anniversary Champion Award from the Province recognizing his work in raising the profile of Accessibility on campus.

The award recognizes outstanding individuals who demonstrate leadership, passion and commitment in the promotion of awareness of accessibility and inclusiveness in their community. June 13, 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the (AODA). The goal of the act is to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and enable them to participate in their communities. To celebrate the anniversary, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) 'The Municipal Experts', with the support of the Government of Ontario, launched a one-time award – the AODA 10th Anniversary Champion Award to recognize accessibility champions across the province.

“I am honoured to be recognized with this prestigious award,” states Trainor. “Sault College is committed to expanding its access and support to all persons with disabilities, by having as its goal a barrier-free learning and working environment to enable academic and employment success. I am proud that we have become a provincial leader with the advancement of accessibility at Sault College. Thank you to the province for recognizing our efforts in this way.”

As the lead for accessibility initiatives at Sault College, Trainor implemented an accessibility audit tool for the College which is used regularly to review accessibility of the campus. In addition he has prepared all AODA policies for compliance and established the Sault College Accessibility Services Office which assists students with disabilities and helps them to identify the most appropriate accommodations. The office also serves as a resource for faculty and staff who work with students with disabilities.

Additionally, Trainor is a strong advocate for Sault College's commitment to improving accessibility in the four key areas of the AODA: Employment, Information and Communications, Transportation, and Built Environment. His commitment to accessibility far exceeds that mandated by AODA with his dedication to ensuring that members of the Sault College community enjoy full participation of the college learning, social and physical environments. He is continuously improving awareness of disabilities and the effects of living with a disability among the College community. With Trainor's perseverance as a champion in this area, accessibility is threaded into all activities and development at the College.

The College wishes to congratulate Trainor for his efforts in promoting the culture of invitational education which Sault College holds at the core of its operations.

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About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province for two years in a row with a score of 88.6% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is one of the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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