

# Tri-C® Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award, 2025

The *Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award* recognizes Tri-C faculty (full-time or part-time) who have incorporated sustainability in their curricula and helped the College continue achieving its long-term academic and workforce training goals.



The 2025 winner of the Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award was Punya Basnayaka, Ph.D., associate professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology at the Metropolitan Campus. Basnayaka has introduced sustainability as a concept in her courses and encouraged students to connect it to their own lives. Students conducted an engineering life cycle assessment on a product they use regularly or are interested in to discover the resources needed to create it and the impact of using the product. They then presented their findings to the class. Through this assignment and presentations, students gained a better understanding of the start-to-finish impacts

of a variety of products. They also completed carbon footprint analyses of their lives and evaluated ways to reduce their impacts. Basnayaka has documented the projects, assignments and teaching materials she created, and they are available to other faculty teaching the Mechanical Engineering Technology orientation class.

Additionally, Basnayaka presented her work on incorporating sustainability at the American Society of Engineering Education's North Central Section Conference in March 2025 and published a paper as part of the conference materials, titled Inclusion of Sustainability Into a First-Year Engineering Technology Course. Basnayaka was also part of the inaugural Tri-C Faculty Learning Community for Sustainability in Spring 2025.

