

# Tri-C Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award, 2016

Tri-C created the *Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award* to recognize faculty who have demonstrated leadership by incorporating sustainability in their curriculum to help students understand the basic concepts of sustainability and effectively communicate those concepts to others in the community. 2016 was the first year for this award.

The inaugural winner of the *Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award* was Sara Clark, Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language at the Western Campus. Professor Clark created semester-long poster projects for students in several English as a Second Language classes. The posters were required to focus on an environmental issue of interest to the student, with some students focusing on environmental issues in the United States, and others on an issue in their home country. In addition to writing content for the posters, students were required to present the information verbally in class and at a campus event open to the public. The projects met multiple course objectives and developed the students' awareness of local and global sustainability issues impacting their lives and the overall quality of life in their communities.



Professor Sara Clark receiving the Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award from Tri-C Provost Dr. Craig Foltin

As was stated in Professor Clark's nomination: "The poster projects not only greatly facilitated students in learning English, but also helped them use that language to develop new identities as environmental stewards. In that process, they recognized that environmental issues are issues of social equity and justice." As one student put it in her class presentation on climate change: "We have unique knowledge to bring from our own cultures, but we also have a responsibility to learn about and care for where we are now."



Students presenting their work from one of Professor Sara Clark's classes as part of the Western Campus Earth Day celebration

