

# Tri-C Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award, 2019

The Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award recognizes Tri-C faculty (full time or part time) who have incorporated sustainability in their curriculum and helped Tri-C move toward achieving the College's long-term academic and workforce training goals.

The 2019 winner of the Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award was Anne Distler, PhD, Professor of Chemistry at Westshore Campus. Professor Distler's commitment to sustainability goes well beyond the classroom. Several years ago, she worked with others to develop assignments for a Sustainability "Toolkit" for faculty. Through a Waste Journal activity she created, Dr. Distler challenges her students' assumptions about the waste they produce and provides them the opportunity to research and reflect upon on the environmental consequences of their own behaviors. By sharing this assignment as part of the sustainability toolkit for faculty, several other faculty members have used this assignment in their classes.

In addition to the Waste Journal activity, Dr. Distler also adapted an Information Literacy learning object developed by College Librarians to focus on the issue of Global Warming. This learning object connects introductory-level students not only to an understanding of the difference between research-based information compared to opinion-based information, but also to the subject area and each student's own impact on the environment.

Dr. Distler's impact on her students led one of them to spearhead the formation of the first ever Westshore Campus Student Environmental Club, for which she is serving as the Faculty Advisor.

Furthermore, Dr. Distler champions waste reduction, reuse, and recycling everyday on campus. As a member of the Westshore Campus Phase II planning team, she was instrumental in requesting the reuse of furniture and fixtures from lab and office renovations. With faculty moving offices as part of the construction, she arranged for collection boxes from BetterWorldBooks so books no longer needed by Westshore faculty cleaning their offices could be reused or recycled.



2019 Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Award winner Dr. Anne Distler, Professor of Chemistry at the Westshore Campus.