

CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARDS, 2021

(EDMONTON), November 18, 2021 – The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), the provincial organization representing academic staff associations at the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, MacEwan University and Athabasca University, is pleased to announce the recipients of the CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards for 2021.

The CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards recognize academic staff members at Alberta’s research and undergraduate universities, who through their research and/or other scholarly, creative, or professional activities have made an outstanding contribution to the wider community beyond the university.

The recipient of the **2021 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award** is **Dr. Sandy Jung**, Professor of Psychology at MacEwan University, in recognition of her outstanding research program in her Psychology Crime Lab (PCL@M) that focuses on the prevention of sexual assault, child sexual exploitation, and intimate partner violence. Dr. Jung has worked with both the RCMP and the Edmonton Police Services, and her research is funded by both internal and major external grants.

Dr. Melissa Tremblay, Assistant Professor in Educational Psychology at University of Alberta, has been chosen to receive the **2021 CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award** for her scholarship in the areas of Indigenous child, family, and community health and wellbeing. Her research takes a relational, community-based participatory approach; and she has partnered with the Boyle Street Education Centre, community members and agencies from the Maskwacis Four Nations, Terra Centre for Teen Parents, and the Alberta Mentoring Partnership.

CAFA is pleased to award the **2021 CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award** to **Dr. Brett McCollum**, Professor of Chemistry at Mount Royal University, for his innovative pedagogical practices both inside and outside the classroom. His teaching accomplishments are varied and include developing and adopting Open Educational Resources (OERs), utilizing a ‘flipped classroom’ that connects Mount Royal students with peers from the United States and Ireland, and involving his undergrad students as partners in his Scholarship of Teaching and Learning research program.

“The annual CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards for over ten years have celebrated the contributions of our members to the community beyond the academy through their research, scholarly teaching, and creative pursuits” notes Dr. Kevin Kane, President of CAFA. “On behalf of CAFA, I extend warmest congratulations to Dr. Sandy Jung, Dr. Melissa Tremblay and Dr. Brett McCollum, deserving recipients of our awards in 2021.”

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards will be presented online on Thursday, **November 18th, 2021**. The online event can be found at [CAFA Awards 2021 Video](#)

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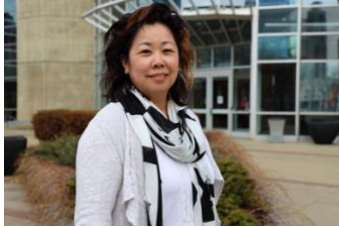
For further information on the work of this year’s Award recipients, please see the attached backgrounders.

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BACKGROUNDER

CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARD 2021

Dr. Sandy Jung



Dr. Sandy Jung, Professor of Psychology at MacEwan University, has been chosen to receive the 2021 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award. We are pleased to recognize Dr. Jung's outstanding contributions to the wider community of Alberta through her teaching and scholarship in the field of forensic psychology.

Dr. Jung's contributions to the academic field are numerous, but her commitment to working with community policing partners is what makes her stand out among the many professors that were eligible for this award. She has been instrumental in the ground-breaking research into domestic violence with the Edmonton Police Services (EPS) and the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (ITRAC). With the Edmonton Police Services, her research has influenced their Violence Reduction Strategy. Outside of the EPS, Dr. Jung has forged long standing research partnerships with the **Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)** and Forensic Assessment and Community Services clinic of the Alberta Hospital Edmonton. It is the dual commitment to high quality research and community service which makes Dr. Jung a valuable member of the Alberta Academy and the reason why CAFA conferred the Distinguished Academic Award to her this year.

CAFA DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC EARLY CAREER AWARD 2021

Dr. Melissa Tremblay



Dr. Melissa Tremblay, Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at University of Alberta, has been awarded the CAFA 2021 Distinguished Early Career Award in recognition of her academic achievements.

Dr. Tremblay is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, born and raised in rural Alberta. She joined the Faculty of Education in both the School and Clinical Child Psychology and the Counselling Psychology program areas in 2018 after completing her pre-doctoral internship in the Faculty of Education Clinical Services. Dr. Tremblay has been committed to a relational, community-based participatory approach to research and has partnered with the Boyle Street Education Centre, community members and agencies from the Maskwacis Four Nations, Terra Centre for Teen Parents, and the Alberta Mentoring Partnership. These partnerships have not only produced strong academic work (recognized in leading journals and by many funding agencies) but also practical solutions for young structurally marginalized Albertans. CAFA considers this joint academic and community service to be an exemplar of exactly the academic and community work that the CAFA awards hope to bring attention to.

CAFA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD 2021

Dr. Brett McCollum



This year CAFA is pleased to award Dr. Brett McCollum, Professor of Chemistry at Mount Royal University the CAFA Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. McCollum is a distinguished teacher with many different awards to his name (including, 3M National Teaching Fellow in 2019, the Mount Royal University Distinguished Faculty Award in Teaching in 2017, and the Mount Royal Faculty Association Teaching Excellence Award in 2016). CAFA is pleased that Dr. McCollum can now add our award to his full, and well deserved, trophy case. Dr. McCollum's commitment to innovative pedagogical practices extend to both inside and outside the classroom. His concerns about the rising costs of textbooks have led him to be a strong advocate of open educational resources—leading to the Student Association of Mount Royal University Open Education Champion Award in 2020. Dr. McCollum also has innovated the use of a 'text-centric flipped classroom' in which he links his students at Mount Royal University with peers in the United States and Ireland—this study further evolved from learning specific chemistry content into a deeper conversation around facilitating student development of 'professional identity' and professional networks.