

## Citation

### **OCUFA Status of Women Committee Award of Distinction 2012**

In the past, this award has recognized women academics of great distinction and achievement. The nine women Chief Negotiators being honoured this evening are fitting additions to this distinguished list.

OCUFA and its Status of Women Committee are acutely aware of both the centrality of collective bargaining to the advancement and protection of the interests of women academics and the standards of excellence which the committee has used adjudicating past Award of Distinction nominees.

Our collective agreements enshrine our rights and provide a concrete path to resolution of issues in many areas, among them gender and equity issues confronting our members. As Chief Negotiators, each of these women has provided strong leadership and sensitive appreciation of the need for better protection of minorities in their associations, through the bargaining process.

The recipients of the 2012 Award are strong examples of the capable women academics working in our midst at Ontario universities. They are strong because they are the voice, the power behind our minority experiences at the negotiating table of their universities. These women advocate for women, they are social agents calling for change, working for change, and implementing change through policy and bargaining rights and actions. Their work is not easy as they too, can be dismissed, dishonored, and disadvantaged as they work to remedy and make for more equitable, safe and civil workplace environments for all.

Each has also provided an individual example for, and as a group, a positive influence on other women academics, who may be considering a leadership role in their associations.

OCUFA is delighted to recognize the 2012 Award of Distinction recipients:

Hilary Earl

Marnie Ham

Sonya Lipsett-Rivera

Sheila McKee-Protopapas

Susan Roll

Brenda Spotton-Visano

Colleen Shantz

Aniko Varpalotai

Susan Wurtele