



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

*Award for Excellence in Teaching*  
*2025*  
*Distinguished Teaching Award*

**DR. ANDREW ZINCK**

Nurturing student agency and student-prompted discovery and learning are hallmarks of Dr. Andrew Zinck's approach to teaching and learning. As a Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Zinck is an exceptional educator: creative, innovative, adaptive, and committed to student-centered and student-responsive pedagogy. Andrew embraces the craft of university teaching through experimenting, taking pedagogical risks and refining his teaching practices. His approaches, informed by SoTL research, invite student engagement and deep learning which fires their curiosity.

Dr. Zinck's pedagogical nimbleness is grounded in his genuine care for students' development and his steadfast, passionate commitment to seeding and fostering student agency. From Andrew's perspective, tackling the challenge of fostering the growth of a mutually supportive learning community begins with care and involves much more than simply supporting students' learning. "Students do not instantly become confident, self-directed learners, nor do they magically co-construct an interdependent community of inquiry and creativity without substantial guidance and practice over time." Dr. Sharon Myers, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and nominator wrote "More than simple attention to student development, Dr. Zinck's curriculum designs actively *work to develop* students' confidence, motivation, and autonomy. The breadth and number of student-centered approaches employed is remarkable, but what is especially striking is the thoughtful consideration and ethical reasoning underlying their adoption, implementation, and evaluation."

These observations are echoed by students who share the profound impact of Dr. Zinck on their learning. One student wrote, "Dr. Zinck's grading and assessment methods stand out as one of the most remarkable aspects of his teaching. He emphasizes self-assessment and non-numerical evaluation, encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning. I initially questioned this approach, but over time, I deeply appreciated how it fostered ownership over my academic progress. Under Dr. Zinck's guidance, I developed a more reflective, responsible approach to my studies, thanks to his ability to pair constructive feedback with a focus on personal growth over grades." Another shared, "He sees education as fun and rewarding. A great example of this was our first-year Music and Culture course, where Dr. Zinck formatted our Moodle to mimic a science fiction role-playing game.... He goes out of his way to address and attempt to dismantle many of the blatantly racist and culturally repressive ideals found in classical musical pedagogy. This has had a profound impression on me as a Black music student."

As one of his colleagues, Dr. Wendy Shilton, wrote, "Dr. Zinck embodies the 'joy of learning' in every aspect of his dedication to teaching. For him, effective teaching inspires meaningful, relevant lifelong learning connections that integrate academic rigour with playful spontaneity." His passion, joy, humour, and humility set him apart as an inspirational educator. Dr. Andrew Zinck is truly deserving of the 2025 Association of Atlantic Universities' Distinguished Teaching Award.