



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

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

**DR. MARY OXNER**

Dr. Mary Oxner, Professor and Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance at St. Francis Xavier University, is a dedicated educator whose teaching has left a lasting mark on her students, colleagues, and the wider community. For more than two decades, she has brought energy, innovation, and genuine care to the classroom, guiding students not only to master accounting concepts but also to grow as confident, thoughtful professionals.

Dr. Oxner's teaching philosophy is rooted in a simple yet powerful reminder from her earliest days as an educator: "Never forget that you are teaching people." She lives this philosophy daily, creating an inclusive, engaging learning environment where every student feels valued, supported, and challenged to reach their potential. Whether it is transforming a classroom into a hub of collaborative problem-solving, providing clear and constructive feedback, or making sure students have the tools they need to succeed, she approaches her work with both rigor and compassion. Students speak of Dr. Oxner as more than an instructor: she is a mentor, a role model, and a source of unwavering encouragement. One former student reflects, "Mary's teaching gave me the confidence to grow academically and personally. She believed in me before I believed in myself."

Experiential learning is at the heart of Dr. Oxner's approach. Her students regularly engage in hands-on projects that bring accounting principles to life, from analyzing real-world corporate governance cases to calculating the "cost of an egg" on a local farm. She has guided students in designing and delivering financial literacy workshops for vulnerable populations, supervised research projects that address real community needs such as financial literacy for resettling refugees, and integrated service learning placements into her courses to connect classroom learning with relevant, inspiring experiences. As one student writes, "Her approach goes beyond the traditional classroom, giving us opportunities to apply what we learn in meaningful, real-world ways."

Dr. Oxner's commitment to excellence extends beyond her courses. She has coached StFX's accounting case competition teams to repeated success, mentored new faculty members, and championed initiatives that diversify curriculum content to better reflect Indigenous businesses and underrepresented voices in the field. Colleagues describe her as a tireless advocate for experiential learning whose leadership has transformed how accounting is taught at StFX and beyond.

Through her innovative teaching strategies, dedication to continuous improvement, and unwavering belief in her students' potential, Dr. Mary Oxner has enriched the academic and personal lives of countless learners. The Association of Atlantic Universities proudly recognizes her as a worthy recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award for her exceptional contributions to teaching, mentorship, and community-engaged learning.