



ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

Award for Excellence in Teaching
2025

Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award

DR. ROB POWER

Dr. Rob Power exemplifies the spirit of educational leadership through his unwavering commitment to accessibility, innovation, and collaboration in teaching and learning. Since joining Cape Breton University in 2020, Dr. Power has become a transformative force in the School of Education and Health, leading initiatives that have reshaped digital pedagogy and expanded access to education across the institution and beyond.

At the heart of Dr. Power's leadership is a philosophy grounded in servant leadership, universal design for learning, and open access. His personal motto captures his dedication to providing accessible educational excellence:

"Ubique." Everything, everywhere, everyone. To use the right tools and approaches to create engaging learning experiences for everyone, and to remove barriers to learners' fullest engagement and success.

This philosophy was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Dr. Power played a pivotal role in CBU's transition to online learning. He co-led the redevelopment of the *University Teaching Program*, created the 'Start Smart' student orientation course, and served as a faculty troubleshooter, providing just in time support to colleagues navigating new digital environments.

Dr. Power's influence extends far beyond crisis response. He has lent his experience in the development of innovative online programs, including CBU's accelerated Bachelor of Education and new Master of Education offerings, and has been instrumental in shaping institutional responses to emerging challenges such as Artificial Intelligence in education. His leadership in digital accessibility is particularly noteworthy. As the creator of '*The ALT Text: Accessible Learning with Technology*', he has provided educators with a practical, inclusive guide to designing accessible learning materials, an initiative that continues to grow through faculty workshops and collaborative content creation.

A passionate advocate for open educational resources, Dr. Power has authored and edited numerous Open Access eBooks, often in collaboration with his students, fostering a culture of co-creation and scholarly engagement. His YouTube channel, with over 170,000 views, and his widely adapted book '*Everyday Instructional Design*' are testaments to his commitment to sharing knowledge freely and widely. His leadership is recognized nationally and internationally through his roles with the *Canadian Network for Innovation in Education* and the *International Research Network for Innovative Sustainable and Seamless Education*.

All of this work embodies the values of inclusivity, innovation, and collegiality that directly align with the purpose of the Anne Marie MacKinnon Educational Leadership Award. It is with great admiration and respect that we recognize Dr. Rob Power as the 2025 recipient of this prestigious honour.