

## Introduction and Acknowledgements

The papers included in these proceedings provide an example of a very successful Teaching Showcase. Despite an unexpected fire that damaged the intended site of the 2018 conference, the Agricultural Campus at Dalhousie University, the hard work of the organizing team was evident. Dalhousie managed to host a very successful Teaching Showcase in Truro, as originally planned. Attendees were invited to consider and explore the following questions during the conference:

- Have experiential or high impact teaching practices had a significant impact for your students, your program and/or the broader community?
- Are there easily implemented high impact strategies that might make a difference at other institutions?
- What challenges with experiential learning initiatives have you faced and how have you overcome them?
- How can we create meaningful learning outcomes for our 21st century graduates, particularly through experiential learning opportunities?

3M Teaching Fellow Dr. Pat Maher set the tone for the conference with his opening keynote address, "Experiential, you keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means: Exploring the tensions of experiential learning in higher education through the lens of *The Princess Bride*." A thoroughly engaging and dynamic opening session, Dr. Maher encouraged conference participants to think outside traditional designations and practices of experiential learning.

During the Teaching Showcase, presenters debated the definition of experiential learning, provided examples of their own practices, and sought to push the boundaries of experiential learning at their institutions and within the Atlantic Region. The articles published in these proceedings provide a rich example of the themes and questions explored during the conference. They demonstrate the consideration and care that university educators in Atlantic Canada exhibit in their teaching practices. It is unfortunate that these proceedings cannot capture the truly active nature of the conference, as many of the sessions not only explored theories associated with experiential learning, but incorporated experiential elements into their conferences offerings!

We would like to thank all who submitted their papers for publication in these proceedings and hope that others find them as thought provoking and inspiring as the original Teaching Showcase sessions. Our sincerest thanks is also extended to the Agricultural Campus and all involved with the organizing and hosting of the conference. We would like to acknowledge and thank the AAU Faculty Development Committee for selecting Dalhousie University as the host for the 2018 Teaching Showcase. The AAU Teaching Showcase is always a highlight of the new academic year each fall, and provides evidence of the value of teaching and learning in Atlantic Canada.