

Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies wins Program of Excellence Award



Pictured above are Mary MacInnis, Program Coordinator and Janice Landry, Director, StFX Continuing & Distance Education

The Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies, offered through the Continuing & Distance Education Department at StFX, received an Award of Excellence from CAUCE (Canadian Association for University Continuing Education) at its annual conference held in Saskatoon in May. The committee members judging the applications were “deeply impressed by how the Program enriches the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, and the Program's community partnership approach”.

In accepting the award on behalf of the department, Janice Landry, Director of Continuing & Distance Education, stated “. . . the program was developed [in 2005] in collaboration with experts in the field of intellectual disability at the request of

L’Arche Canada to support both the caregiver and the person with an intellectual disability . . . the program stresses a community model of care and emphasis is on the social and spiritual needs, as well as on the physical needs of the individual.”

Consisting of 4 courses and a practicum, the program is of interest to group home leaders and workers, residential care facility coordinators, L’Arche assistants and directors, employment counselors, residential counselors, teaching assistants, CACL staff and parents. Dr. Landry went on to say “the focus is on *caring about* as well as *caring for* and encourages a reciprocal relationship between the caregiver and the person with an intellectual disability, recognizing that each has gifts to bring to the relationship.”

Details on the **Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies** are provided online:

<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/INDS> or contact the Program Office toll free 1-866-551-7575 or inds@stfx.ca.