In today’s globalized world, more and more of us are required to understand people who come from countries and cultures different from our own. Diversity is essential to Canada and other western nations’ economic and social viability. As educators, Canadian universities and colleges recognize the need to provide graduates with a global perspective and intercultural skills to be successful in today’s workforce. As leaders and administrators of these institutions, ensuring our universities and colleges are diverse and creating a diverse and inclusive society is challenging. This course is intended to increase awareness, knowledge and skills required for successful cross-cultural interactions, for building inclusive environments, and for tapping into the benefits and strengths of diversity.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course will provide useful tools and practical skills in supporting workplace diversity. As a result of participating in this course you will:

- Develop an understanding of different worldviews and their impact on interpersonal relationships, work teams, and learning environments;
- Increase understanding of non-verbal and verbal cross-cultural communication skills with opportunity to discuss challenges and practice solutions;
- Discuss cultural competencies at both individual and organizational levels; and
- Develop an action plan for increased cultural competencies and inclusive work/learning environments.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Tamara Leary holds a BA (UPEI), BSW(Uvic), MAEd(StFX) and is a candidate (ABD) for the EdD in higher education leadership from the University of Calgary. She has also completed the CISAS program through CHERD.

From 1989 - 1999 Ms Leary worked with several non-profit community organizations in various advocacy and leadership roles in PEI and BC. This period of time provided her with the opportunity to work with at risk youth and their families, adults who have intellectual disabilities, and with families in crisis. Ms Leary completed the BC Justice Institute in Residential Management Certification and as such was engaged by community service providers to deliver staff training in communication, emergency responsiveness, and parent support programming. From 1999 – January 2011 Ms Leary worked with UPEI’s Department of Student Services as a program coordinator for a unique inclusive post secondary program; the coordinator for an academic support program she developed and delivered; a student development coordinator responsible for the development and delivery of first year student supports and services; the acting Director of Student Services; and, the Director of Student Services leading a team of 19 student service professionals. In January 2011 she accepted the opportunity to teach for the Faculty of Education with Memorial University of Newfoundland by distance – teaching courses in adult education and post secondary studies.
The topic for Ms. Leary’s doctoral research is *Best practices in supporting international students with first year transition into Canadian universities: Recommendations from Atlantic Canada*. Her research interest stemmed from her experience in working with international students and her frustration in what appears to be a dearth of research and policies that understand and respond to the learning needs and expectations of international students studying in Canada.

Ms Leary has held regional and national executive member positions with the Canadian Association for College and University Student Services (CACUSS) – 2005 - 2007 and the Atlantic Association for College and University Student Services (AACUSS) – 2005 - present. Ms Leary has been recognized by her regional and national colleagues with the following awards: Dr. Richard Papenhausen Award for New Professionals (June 2005), Canadian Institute for Student Affairs and Services Bursary (May 2005) and the Special Projects Grant (June 2001).