



The 2017 President's Award for Excellence in Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus Climate – Jennifer Mitchell

Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, Associate Professor of English & Communication, has worked tirelessly with various constituents on campus to build a more equitable and inclusive community.

Commencing in spring 2015, Jennifer has both provided leadership to, and continues to be a driving force behind, the Preparing and Organizing for Change: Teaching, Learning, and Practicing Racial Justice at SUNY Potsdam (POP) Group steering committee. She wrote the proposal to SUNY which secured the \$12,500 grant that was used last academic year to offer training workshops to faculty and staff in an effort to create a new campus climate valuing diversity and seeking inclusion. Jennifer works diligently to facilitate training and workshops, and hosts films

with discussion sessions such as *White Like Me* and *If These Halls Could Talk*.

Jennifer serves as the Diversity and Inclusion Action Collation (DIAC) Communication Specialist and Chair of the Communication and Membership Subcommittee working to create focus groups to provide feedback around topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion and also creates reports to relay this information to the campus.

In 2016, Jennifer helped develop the annual Days of Reflection event on campus. This initiative is intended for education and necessary conversation for moving the campus, community, region, state and nation toward greater racial equity and justice.

Jennifer encourages her students in the classroom and in the College Writing Center to treat others equitably and with respect. She strives to ensure both are an inclusive atmosphere where everyone has a voice.

In recognition of her dedication to the advancement of learning, SUNY Potsdam presents Dr. Jennifer Mitchell the 2017 President's Award for Excellence in Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus Climate.