

LEADERSHIP AWARD

MARCIA FRIESEN, P.ENG.



Dr. Friesen was the first program coordinator responsible for developing and delivering the Internationally Educated Engineers Qualification Program (IEEQ) at the University of Manitoba, where she continues to serve as Director. The IEEQ Program was developed in 2003 to address qualifications recognition for internationally-educated engineers, including formal recognition of foreign credentials and Canadian labour market entry. Since 2003, through Dr. Friesen's vision and efforts, the IEEQ program has addressed academic confirmation, cultural integration, language development, professional networking opportunities, and supported engineering employment. As such, the program represents a holistic qualifications recognition approach beyond a sole focus on technical confirmation. It also represented a unique partnership between an engineering regulatory body and the university.

The IEEQ program was the first of its kind in Canada and is now nationally recognized as a comprehensive qualifications recognition framework for the licensure and labour market entry of internationally-educated engineers. As an indication of the program's value and success, the Government of Manitoba awarded it baseline funding in 2007 to become a permanent program at the University of Manitoba. In 2005, Engineers Canada engaged with IEEQ and APEGM to provide information and training to other Canadian jurisdictions that were interested in developing an IEEQ-style program. All of the graduates have been registered as EITs with APEGM, and to date IEEQ has contributed close to 30 new P.Eng.'s to the engineering profession as well. Whether EIT or P.Eng., approximately 90% of graduates are employed in their field, contributing to our key economic sectors in engineering consulting services, manufacturing, and the public service.

In her role as Director of the IEEQ program, Dr. Friesen has developed and teaches the course Practicing Professional Engineering in Manitoba. This course is the model for a curriculum framework called Working in Canada Seminar, made available nationally to other Canadian jurisdictions who wish to implement a similar course. She regularly presents to other professions and regulatory bodies relative to issues of qualifications recognition of immigrant professionals.

Alongside IEEQ, Dr. Friesen holds an appointment as Assistant Professor in Design Engineering and Adjunct Professor in Electrical & Computer Engineering, in which she collaborates with the Power & Energy Systems Group and the Internet Innovation Centre. With advanced degrees in both education (M.Ed.) and engineering (Ph.D.), Dr. Friesen has conducted various interdisciplinary and educational research projects and has promoted a faculty development culture within the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership and scientific knowledge applied to benefit Manitobans and the nation, the Association is pleased to present the Leadership Award to Dr. Marcia Friesen.