

Dr. Mary Bluechardt Biography



Dr. Mary Bluechardt is the vice-president (Grenfell Campus) Memorial University. She was appointed to the role in 2011 and was reappointed in 2016. Dr. Bluechardt has led this interdisciplinary campus with a focus on providing a supportive learning environment, conducting influential research and engaging the community in a meaningful way.

Prior to joining Grenfell Campus, Dr. Bluechardt was Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (2009-2011) with over 1,600 students in Health Sciences. Dr. Bluechardt was the Dean of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at Memorial University of Newfoundland from 2005-2009 where the Seahawks Varsity Athletics program was a part of that portfolio.

As National Director of Coaching Development for Special Olympics Canada (2001-2005), Dr. Bluechardt was responsible for the development of coaching education to enhance performance in both the community and competitive sport arena for over 10,000 volunteer coaches coaching over 30,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from across Canada.

Born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario, Dr. Bluechardt earned her Bachelor of Physical and Health Education and a Master of Science in Coaching from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She obtained her PhD in Exercise Science and Health Promotion from the University of Toronto (Faculty of Medicine – Department of Community Health). She was a professor at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan for 17 years, in both the faculties of Kinesiology of Health Studies, and Education, with expertise in Adapted Physical Activity. Dr. Bluechardt has worked tirelessly to advance the lives of people with disabilities and inclusive environments. Upon her departure from the University of Regina, a student scholarship was established in her name, to recognize her contributions to Adapted Physical Activity. In addition to pursuing full professorship at the University of Regina, Dr. Bluechardt also worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in Saskatchewan with the Regina Emergency Medical Services, is trained in Mediation, and is certified in Negotiation from the Justice Institute of British Columbia – Centre for Conflict Resolution.

Dr. Bluechardt has been the recipient of several awards, including the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Health and Wellness; University of Regina Alumni Award of Excellence in Public Service and Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport Award for the Most Influential Women in Sport and Physical Activity. She was appointed to the National Board of Directors for Canadian Sport for Life and was the first female appointment to the expert group responsible for Canada's Long Term Athlete Development Framework. On a number of occasions, she has been an honoured guest of Team Canada for Special Olympics World Games.