

Dawn Bowen

Professor at University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Bowen's expertise centers on the regional geography of Eastern and Western North America, and Latin America.

Biography

Dawn Bowen is fascinated by people and places. An award-winning scholar in the field of human geography and regional geography, Dr. Bowen's expertise focuses on Eastern and Western North America as well as Latin America. Her recent article "Education, Leadership, and Conservation: Empowering Young Q'eqchi' Women in Guatemala" marks the culmination of years of working with young women in the Community Cloud Forest Conservation's Women in Agroecology Leadership for Conservation (WALC) program. The initiative provides young women small scholarships that allow them to continue in school beyond grade 6 by learning about sustainable agricultural practices, income generation and farm management, as well as nutrition, health, and human rights. In 2018, she published an article on the experience of women and youth living in a company town on the island of Aruba as well as research on the government-assisted migration of Mennonite farmers from Saskatchewan to British Columbia in the 1940s. Dr. Bowen also is an expert in cultural landscape evolution in northern Alberta, Montana and Aruba, and heritage tourism in Labrador.

Her passion for geography and her commitment to teaching are evident in her extensive research trips to Latin America, the Caribbean and North America, where she leads undergraduates on week-long field trips to study grassroots development in Maya communities and complete a reforestation project. The author of more than two dozen publications, Dr. Bowen has presented her research at conferences across North America.

She is recipient of Mary Washington's Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award and the Excellence in Teaching Award given by the Academic Affairs Council. She has also received the Grellet C. Simpson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2012 and the Mary W. Pinschmidt Award from the 2016 graduating class as the professor they will most likely remember as the one who had the greatest impact on their lives. She has chaired several faculty committees, including the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee. She has been a consistent sponsor of the Young Women Leader's Program, and a Faculty Advisor to the Honor Council. In 2009 she received the Henry Douglas Distinguished Service Award for the Research, Publication, and Teaching of Material Culture from the Association for the Preservations of Artifacts and Landscapes of the Pioneer American Society.

Areas of Expertise

Geography and Development, Human Geography, Geography, North American Geography

Education

Queen's University

Ph.D. Geography

University of Maine
M.A. Canadian History

Mary Washington College
B.A. Geography and International Affairs

Accomplishments

Mary W. Pinschmidt Award

Awarded by the University of Mary Washington. Selected by graduating seniors as the professor they will most likely remember as the one who had the greatest impact on their lives.

Excellence in Teaching Award

For the Southeast Division, awarded by the Association of American Geographers.

Grellet C. Simpson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Awarded by the University of Mary Washington.

Henry H. Douglas Award Distinguished Service Award for the Research, Publication, and Teaching of Material Culture

Awarded by the Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservations of Artifacts and Landscapes.

Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award

Awarded by Mary Washington College.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Awarded by the Academic Affairs Council, Mary Washington College.

Jepson Fellowship

Awarded by Mary Washington College.

Distinguished Member

Awarded by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Fulbright Fellowship

Awarded by Institute for International Education.

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