

For Immediate Release
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Poppy Adamantidis, Hotel Management Program Coordinator at Heritage College, named Professional Woman of the Year at the *Gala de l'excellence du RÉFAP de l'Outaouais*

On April 16th 2011, at the *Gala de l'excellence du RÉFAP de l'Outaouais* (a network of business and professional Women) held at the Palais des congrès in Gatineau, Poppy Adamantidis, Hotel Management Program Coordinator at Heritage College – Anglophone CEGEP in the Outaouais, was named *Femme professionnelle de l'année* (Professional woman of the year).

Following a robust candidate selection process, candidates were selected for 4 categories: Business Woman, Professional Woman, Self-employed Woman, and Juventas. The nomination process for each of the categories involved the development of a written document, an individual interview and a public presentation. The nomination committee was composed of 1 president and 4 jury members, all members of the *RÉFAP*, who proceeded to the scoring of each of the elements of the nomination process. The winner in each category is the one who received the highest total score.

"I'm extremely touched and honoured to have received this prize" says Poppy Adamantidis. "From my humble beginnings in Greece, to my arrival in Canada speaking only Greek, and to this prize that I accept with great humility as recognition of the road that I have travelled, there has been quite a journey! It's like a dream that leaves me speechless, which is a rare thing! The last three years with Heritage College have been the most rewarding of my career".

Poppy left Greece for Canada in 1973 after graduating from the *Institut de Tourisme et d'Hôtellerie d'Ionina*, to join her future husband who had immigrated from Greece the year before. As she only spoke Greek, Poppy went back to school to learn French, she then learned English on her own, and over the next 25 years worked in hotel management for a number of different hotels in Montreal and then Gatineau. In 1994, she started teaching hotel management at la *Commission scolaire des Draveurs*, and moved on to become Coordinator of the Hotel Management Program at Collège Mérici, where she was for five years before joining Heritage College in 2009.

Poppy's life experiences, career path, involvement in the community, professional achievements, and no doubt her dynamic personality, led to her nomination as Professional Woman of the year for 2011.



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