

Short citation:

Prof. Anthony E. (Willy) Williams-Jones is awarded the 2017 CFES Mentorship Medal for fostering the development and professional success of an army of graduate students, many colleagues, faculty members and professionals in the fields of economic geology, ore genesis, and geochemistry, as well as for inspiring a legion of undergraduate students to follow careers in earth science. The medal will be presented at the SGA (Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits) meeting in Quebec City in August.

Long citation:

The 2017 CFES Mentorship Medal is awarded to Prof. Anthony E. (Willy) Williams-Jones, Logan Professor of Economic Geology and Geochemistry in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science (EPS) at McGill University, for fostering the development and professional success of an army of graduate students, many colleagues, faculty members and professionals in the fields of economic geology, ore genesis, and geochemistry, as well as for inspiring a legion of undergraduate students to follow careers in earth science.

After working three years in the private sector and trekking through South Africa and Brazil, Prof. Williams-Jones joined the then Department of Geological Sciences at McGill University in 1977 where he brought his experience in the private sector as well as his love for field work to academia. Since then he has shared this passion with all the undergraduate and graduate students he has lectured to or taken to the field. During the past forty years, Prof. Williams-Jones has supervised and graduated 34 M.Sc., 25 Ph.D. and 15 Post-Doctoral students, many of whom have gone on to extremely successful careers in academia and/or the mining industry. His current research group includes 2 M.Sc., 6 Ph.D. and 1 Post-Doctoral students. Prof. Williams-Jones' outstanding teaching and graduate supervision at McGill have been recognized by every teaching and mentoring award that McGill has to offer. He is revered by his students.

In addition to his accomplishments as a teacher and mentor, Prof. Williams-Jones' influence on our understanding of the formation of ore deposits, and geochemistry in general, has been profound. Prof. Williams-Jones is highly motivated, as well as being an extremely creative and innovative researcher. His scientific investigations have had great scientific impact, blending observational, experimental, and theoretical approaches. He has collaborated extensively with colleagues in academia, government, and the private sector worldwide, extending his influence in an incredible array of different directions.

Prof. Williams-Jones is an extremely erudite person who simply bubbles with an infectious enthusiasm. His mentorship and generosity has inspired several generations of students and colleagues to follow in his path and ensure a legacy of mentorship and scientific achievements. He is a world-class scientist and a wonderful ambassador for Canada. Prof. Williams-Jones has been one of the most influential researchers and mentors in Canadian earth sciences and is a most worthy recipient of the CFES Mentorship Medal.