



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Meric S. Gertler, CM, FRSC, FBA, FAcSS
President

November 19, 2020

Dear Elaine,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I'm writing to congratulate you on your 2020 Arbor Award. This is the highest honour the University of Toronto bestows on volunteers to acknowledge their generous commitment of time, expertise, and effort to the University.

Normally, we would hold a ceremony and would invite University leaders, senior volunteers, past recipients, and others to celebrate our Arbor Award recipients. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevents us from doing so this year.

Nevertheless, we still have much to celebrate. The COVID crisis has served as a reminder of the central importance of community in our lives and of how our sense of common purpose and duty to one another is closely connected to our collective well-being. This, I believe, has lent added significance to this year's awards. Our community is resilient. We care about each other. And our mission of teaching, research, and innovation is more vital than ever before.

As an Arbor Award recipient, you epitomize the very best of U of T. Your contributions, combined with those of your peers, help elevate every facet of University life—from opening new horizons for our students to championing the work of our scholars and scientists.

The Arbor Award is our way of thanking you for everything you have done for our community. To express our gratitude, we have enclosed your Arbor Award certificate and pin. The pin's oak leaf design symbolizes the growth, learning, wisdom, resilience, and enduring strength of this great institution. We hope you will wear it with pride. We are also delighted to permanently recognize your contributions on the Arbor Awards webpage, at uoft.me/ArborAwards.

I look forward to the time when we can gather together again. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Meric S. Gertler
President