



PACIFIC COAST UNIVERSITY  
FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH SCIENCES

**Deborah C. Poff**

Deborah C. Poff, Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Guelph; M.A., Philosophy, Carleton University; B.A (Hons.) Philosophy, Queens University; B.A. (Hons.) Psychology, University of Guelph and is former President and Vice-Chancellor at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. She serves as editor of two major publications in the field of ethics.



After graduation, Poff headed to the University of Alberta, where she taught logic and philosophy of science in the Department of Philosophy as well as business ethics courses for all business students while at the same time chairing the Women's Studies Department at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

While at the University of Alberta, Poff was in charge of a research institute, the research being focused on social justice issues including economics and Third World development, as well as social issues such as family violence, elder abuse, violence against children and sexual assault. This necessitated travel having projects in India, a five-year (CIDA) project in Nigeria with colleagues from Dalhousie University, and some work in Central America.

That all changed when Poff was approached as part of an executive search from BC. There was a new university starting up, and her name kept coming up as a potential Dean of Arts and Sciences. The new University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) had no campus and no staff, and it was a challenge Poff couldn't resist. She was one of the first 40 hired who undertook the hiring of all staff and oversaw building of the campus. Poff states that it was probably one of the most exciting times in her career, because it's not often that you have the opportunity to start from the ground up.

While at UNBC and serving as Dean of Faculty for Arts and Sciences, Poff taught classes and, along the way, founded both the prestigious Journal of Business Ethics and the Journal of Academic Ethics, published by Springer Science+Business Media.

Poff rose to Vice President and Provost at UNBC before leaving in 2004 at which time she accepted an invitation to take over as President at Brandon University. She is the editor of Business Ethics in Canada and serves as President of the National Council on Ethics in Human Research. Additionally, she serves on the board of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, which requires overseeing the construction of a deep geological repository to store nuclear waste.

In addition to her duties as President, Poff also liked to teach selected courses at Brandon. She taught a summer course on the history of feminism and prior to that, a fourth-year capstone course in leadership ethics. "It's important for me to remember why I am an administrator. It's all about the students," Poff said.