



Get to know University Councillor Denise Shortt:



BAH'89, Harvard ED.M 1997. Toronto, ON. Vice-President, Industry Development and Diversity & Inclusion, TECHNATION. Board Director, Women in Communications and Technology (WCT). Extensive volunteer and board advisory experience in the technology sector and with women and youth organizations. Advisor, Diversity Institute, Ryerson University. Co-founder of Wired Woman Toronto and Harvard Women in IT. Awarded Canadian Women in Communications Leadership Award as a Lifelong Champion of Women's Advancement. Co-author, *Innovation Nation*, Toronto: Wiley & Sons, 2002. Co-author, *Technology with Curves: Women Reshaping the Digital Landscape*, Toronto: HarperCollins, 2000. Current term to 2022.

1. Why did you select Queen's University?

I selected Queen's because it was one of the top universities in Canada and was recognized for its strong sense of spirit and community. I knew I was going to Queen's from when I was in Grade 6 and nothing was going to deter me from attending. (I also loved the tartan!)

2. Most memorable moment as a student?

By far, the most memorable aspect of Queen's was and still is, the friendships that I made during my time there. I am still very close to many (most) of them and they continue to enrich my life greatly. There is something about the Queen's environment that cultivates such a strong community and alumni network and I cherish those friendships to this day.

3. What is your job?

I am Vice President, Industry Development and Diversity & Inclusion for TECHNATION, Canada's leading tech industry association.

4. What's the best career advice you've ever received?

The best career advice I ever received is to be an excellent intrapreneur. No matter what size of organization you work for you need to act like an entrepreneur, that is, be self-motivated, pro-active, innovative and creative. Also, always be authentic and true to your core values.

5. What's the career highlight you're most proud of?

I think the career highlight I am most proud of is the publication and success of my first book, *Technology with Curves: Women Reshaping the Digital Landscape*. It took considerable sacrifice and commitment to research and write that book and it was very rewarding to

interview top female tech leaders from all around the world and showcase their stories in order to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in tech.

6. How do you spend your free time?

I spend my free time reading for pleasure and spending time with friends and family.

7. What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I loved my experience at Queen's and I was eager to work with the other council members to help support, guide and promote the University as it evolves.

8. What are some of your most memorable milestones/accomplishments as a Councillor?

I have enjoyed meeting and connecting with the other councillors. We all have a piece of the puzzle to bring and we share a commitment and care for Queen's. I also have really enjoyed learning about new programs/accomplishments/successes at Queen's so that I can spread the word.

9. Your aspirations for being on University Council?

I believe that Queen's still has considerable progress to make with respect to EDII. I would very much like to be an ally as Queen's strives to evolve its culture to truly become inclusive and welcoming to every single person who attends.

10. Do you have any words of wisdom for incoming Councillors?

Enjoy the experience!

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