# Convocation 2016 - Citation by Bill Atkinson: Morning Ceremony June 9, 2016

## 3 minutes 26 seconds in length

[Trent University logo]

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, members of the graduating class, faculty, family, and friends. The Trent Distinguished Research Award was established in 1986 and is awarded each year to a member of the Trent faculty who has distinguished themselves in research and scholarship. This year the award goes to Professor Suresh Narine jointly of the departments of Chemistry and Physics and Astronomy.

Dr. Narine has been a professor at Trent since 2009 where he holds a Research Chair in Green Chemistry and Engineering and is the Director of the Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research. Dr. Narine is also a Trent alumnus having studied Chemical Physics at Trent. He received his PhD from Guelph in food science where he studied how fats crystallize. This is a topic of great importance to the food industry and in fact Dr. Narine's first research position was with M&M Mars, the chocolate company. However it also formed the foundation of his later work on the use of vegetable oils to replace petrochemicals in commercial products. It turns out that how and when oils crystallize is one of the key factors that determine their usefulness.

In recent years Dr. Narine has focused on the big questions of renewable energy and improving the efficiency of our current energy infrastructure. For example he's been seeking natural additives to keep biodiesel from freezing in your gas tank in the winter and he has developed phase change materials that will store unused energy generated at night for use during the day when it is needed. At Trent Dr. Narine has built one of the top labs in lipid-based biomaterials in the world. He has received many accolades over the years and I'm only going to mention two.

First he is the Director of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Guyana and under his watch it has been transformed into the premier research institute of its kind. For this work he received the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Award for Excellence in Science and Technology.

Second he was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 Leaders in Canada by the Globe and Mail in 2011. I've chosen to mention these two because they highlight that success isn't just about doing great science in the lab.

These awards are the result of Dr. Narine's vision, leadership, innovation, and involvement in the global community.

Mr. Chancellor it gives me great pleasure to present to you for the Distinguished Researcher Award, Professor Suresh Narine.

[Applause]

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