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Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI)
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Home-grown director picked to lead Brock University's CCOVI

Debra Inglis, a Brock University professor and resident of Niagara who has been involved in the local grape and wine industry since she was a child, has been chosen as the new Director of Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI).

Inglis brings to the position more than 10 years experience in grape and wine research. An Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Inglis' research is central to the CCOVI icewine program, which aims to improve icewine quality and guarantee its authenticity on the world stage.

Ian Brindle, Brock's Associate Vice-President, Research, appointed Inglis to the post. His decision was backed by the CCOVI Advisory Council, which comprises representatives from the University and the grape and wine industry. He notes that, "Dr. Inglis is an ideal fit for this position because of her intimate understanding of the Institute, Brock University and the Ontario grape and wine industry."

As well as being a CCOVI researcher since joining Brock in 1999, Inglis has taught biochemistry, wine chemistry and microbiology. She has served as Graduate Program Director for Biological Sciences and has been a member of the University's senate.

As CCOVI Director, Inglis will serve a two-year term in which she will be responsible for administration and industry relations, and for developing and instituting a five-year strategic plan for the Institute.

"This is an exciting time to be part of CCOVI, as we grow our research and services capacity following the Institute's new governance structure," says Inglis. "We look forward to capitalizing on external opportunities to develop Ontario's wine research cluster and to strengthen Canada's national grape and wine strategy."

Recent changes to CCOVI's governance mean that Inglis will report to the Associate Vice-President, Research until January 2009, when a new Vice-President, Research will arrive at Brock. Inglis takes over the reins of CCOVI from Joffre Mercier who was Acting Director from January 2008, in addition to his role as Dean, Faculty of Mathematics and Science at Brock.

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