



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

**Professor Meric Gertler, FRSC**  
**Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science**

Professor Meric Gertler became dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Arts & Science, on December 1, 2008 for an appointment that will run until June 30, 2014.

As dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science, Professor Gertler heads up the largest academic division at the University of Toronto. The Faculty is home to some 22,000 undergraduate students – approximately three-quarters of U of T's downtown undergraduate population – who are working towards bachelor's degrees in arts, science or commerce.

The Arts & Science undergraduate student body is academically strong, with an entering class average in the neighbourhood of 85 per cent. It is also an exceptionally diverse student body, coming from 150 different countries and with more than half identifying themselves as members of a visible minority. An estimated 40 per cent of students are the first in their families to receive a university degree.

As dean, his priority is to provide students with a top quality academic experience in which they benefit directly from U of T's strength in linking research and teaching.

Professor Gertler is a gifted administrator who has served numerous roles within the University of Toronto. Prior to being named dean, he served as interim dean of Arts & Science from March to November 30, 2008. He was vice-dean, graduate education and research in the Faculty, where he oversaw its ambitious graduate expansion plans, established governance mechanisms for graduate education and played a key role in U of T's tri-campus graduate curriculum committees.

He is co-director of the program on globalization and regional innovation systems at the Munk Centre for International Studies and was director of the Department of Geography's program in planning.

Internationally renowned as a distinguished scholar, Professor Gertler's research focuses on the geography of innovative activity and the economies of city-regions.

He has attracted \$8.4 million in external funding and has published six books including *Manufacturing Culture: the Institutional Geography of Industrial Practice and Innovation and Social Learning*, co-edited with Professor David Wolfe.

Professor Gertler's more than 80 journal articles and book chapters, have had significant impact in his field and led him to be one of Canada's most highly cited geographers. He is co-editor of the widely used *Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, winner of Choice Magazine's "Outstanding Academic Book" award in 2002.

Professor Gertler holds the Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies at University College, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and is the 2007 recipient of the Award for Scholarly Distinction from the Canadian Association of Geographers.

Professor Gertler's influence extends beyond the academy and his advice is frequently sought by government agencies in North America and abroad, including the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

His 2006 report *Imagine Toronto: Strategies for a Creative City* has had a significant impact on local cultural and economic policy. In 2008, Professor Gertler, along with his colleague Professor David Wolfe of Political Science, was awarded the Carolyn Tuohy Impact on Public Policy Award of Excellence for excellence in teaching, research and scholarship with a significant impact on public policy.

Professor Gertler completed his undergraduate degree at McMaster University in Hamilton, his master's degree at the University of California, Berkeley and his PhD at Harvard. He joined the University of Toronto in 1983 as a lecturer in the Department of Geography and was quickly promoted to Associate Professor in 1988 and Full Professor in 1993. He has been visiting professor at such prestigious institutions as Oxford University, University College, London and the University of California at Los Angeles.

As dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science, Professor Gertler oversees Canada's largest and most comprehensive faculty with 22,000 undergraduate students, 3,700 graduate students and 930 faculty members.