

November 22, 2010

Celebrating SIAST community leaders

This year's SIAST employee award recipients have been announced.

SIAST's Employee Awards program recognizes outstanding contributions that support the organization's vision and values.

The awards highlight employee contributions that make SIAST a high-performing organization.

The **Outstanding Service Award** at **SIAST Kelsey Campus** was received by **Lynda McLeod** in the **Nursing Education program**.

A leading nurse educator at SIAST for 34 years, Lynda is held in high regard by Saskatchewan's nursing community.

Throughout her career, Lynda has demonstrated excellent leadership in the delivery of innovative nursing education.

Through collaboration and teamwork, Lynda has facilitated student success and is well-known for her expertise in providing assistance to students having difficulty in the nursing program

Lynda is also a skilled mentor among both new and seasoned faculty. Her mentoring and leadership abilities span the classroom and clinical practice settings, as well as in the areas of curriculum development and evaluation and research.

Susan Bain, an administrative assistant for **Student Development**, received the **Outstanding Service Award** at **SIAST Woodland Campus**.

She has worked at SIAST Woodland for 28 years, first as a support person for the Nursing Division for 13 years and then for Student Development for 15.

Susan is the first person students see when they come into the Student Development office and always treats the students with extra kindness regardless of the situation.

She also goes out of her way to make new SIAST Woodland employees feel welcome.

Susan has been a member of the Woodland Education Committee for more than 10 years and currently serves as the group's secretary.

This is in addition to being a contributing member of the Woodland Equity Awareness Committee.

Outside of Woodland, Susan is the chancellor guild at St. David's Church and is a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Susan also serves on the Multiple Sclerosis Society as a member of the client services and government regulations committee. She was one of the three founding members of the Prince Albert's M.S. support group and has been the coordinator for 22 years.

She is a Commissionaire for Oaths in Saskatchewan.

Susan also regularly contributes to the Coats for Kids program by knitting mitts, scarves and toques.

At **SIAST Palliser Campus**, the **Outstanding Service Award** went to **Gavin Osborne** and **Peter Gattinger** of the **Business Information Systems program**.

When Palliser Printing Services began to accept electronic print requests, it was sometimes problematic because customers would often forget to give complete details, and staff would have to contact the customer for further information.

Palliser Print Services consulted with Peter about the possibility of creating an electronic version of the hard copy print request form.

Peter brought in Gavin, and together they decided that an electronic printing requisition would be a great opportunity for students to develop an actual hands-on web application.

A student project team set up an electronic printing requisition, a test group was targeted and, three months later, Edocket was launched.

Each year since, a new team of students takes on the electronic requisition as a project to address any problems, additions or deletions as required.

At **SIAST Wascana Campus**, the **Outstanding Service Award** was won by **Linda Hardy** of the **Nursing Education program**.

A leading nurse educator at SIAST for more than 25 years, Linda is held in high regard by Saskatchewan's nursing community.

Linda promotes excellence in her students by sharing her enthusiasm for her subject. Her endless energy has been channeled constructively by offering tutorial sessions and providing support to learning circles.

Linda has identified and sought additional learning resources for Aboriginal students through Native Access Program to Nursing (NAPN) advisors. She nurtures relationships with NAPN advisors, which enables her to encourage and support Aboriginal students in their learning.

Robert O'Neil, program head, **Library Services** at **SIAST Woodland Campus** received the **President's Award of Excellence**.

The President's Award of Excellence is awarded to an individual who furthers SIAST's mission and vision, exemplifies SIAST's values, consistently contributes to the advancement of SIAST and demonstrates a student-centered focus.

Robert is known for putting students first by creating opportunities that allow them to hone their skills on real-life projects.

In 2009, for instance, Robert coordinated a project between SIAST's Integrated Resource Management program and the Prince Albert Cooke Municipal Golf Course.

Students created an inventory of flora at the golf course.

The end project was incorporated into a book that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the golf course.

In 2007, Robert worked with Media Arts Production students and produced a video called *Looking East*, which won the People's Choice award at the Reel Rave International Film Festival.

Robert also founded the event Tuesday Morning Coffee @ the Library, which takes place on the first Tuesday of every month and provides an opportunity for students and staff to share their creative talents.

The event has been going for seven years and is co-sponsored by the student association.

All proceeds from the sale of coffee and homemade cookies at the event are donated to the local Youth Outreach Program, which brings warmth, food and hope to homeless kids.

Robert also created the student and staff art galleries at SIAST's libraries.

Recognizing not all students are comfortable in the library, Robert started the Landing Zone - a small portable library that can be set up at various locations around SIAST's campuses.

SIAST's Innovation Award was received by nursing's **North American Mobility Project Team** from SIAST **Wascana** and **Kelsey campuses**.

Members from SIAST Kelsey include **Reny Loewen**, **Sharon Dixon**, **Robyn Kobussen** and **Heather Shouse**.

From SIAST Wascana, are **Bernice Suehwold**, **Frankie Verville** and **Carrie Allen**.

The initiative, which began in 2006, aimed to secure funding for a unique transcultural nursing education exchange project that would develop increased understanding of cultural diversity for students and faculty.

A year later, \$160,000 was obtained from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to engage in a North American Mobility Project (NAMP).

Participants in the NAMP include educational institutions from Mexico, the United States and Canada, including Universidad de Colima and Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi in Colima, Mexico, Lone Star College System in Houston, Texas, and St. Louis Community College in St. Louis, Missouri.

As the lead Canadian institution, SIAST nursing faculty took the initiative to establish a partnership with Red River College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as the second Canadian institution.

Together, the six partner institutions established goals focused on providing a quality student-centered exchange program with a strong focus on clinical practice education.

The expenses for students going to Mexico and the United States were fully funded.

Students and faculty have described the program as life-changing.

Story written by Kelly-Anne Riess, mySIAST editor