



Creating Futures

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News Release

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Winners of 2010 SSDEC Excellence in Education Awards Recognized

Recipients Announced at Annual SSDEC Staff In-Service

Fort Smith, NT – The South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the *SSDEC Excellence in Education Awards* for 2010:

Program Staff

- *Brad Wilson* – Teacher, Deninu School, Fort Resolution

Partners in Education

- *Marny Twigge* – Volunteer, Hay River schools, Hay River

The purpose of the Excellence in Education Awards is to publicly recognize the sustained commitments and outstanding contributions made by staff, parents and/or community members in helping to create the best possible futures for South Slave students.

Brad Wilson was honoured for his dedication to both teaching and learning, as well as his willingness to pilot new ideas and projects in order to improve student achievement. He arrived at Deninu School in 2006 as a young teacher with limited classroom experience and has quickly matured into a teacher who incorporates exemplary practices in his regular classroom routine.

Volunteer Marny Twigge was recognized for her tireless and longstanding contribution to the schools in Hay River. Currently a member of the Diamond Jenness Parent Advisory Committee, Marny has donated her time and energies to students in Harry Camsell, Princess Alexandra and Diamond Jenness schools for many years.

Ann Pischinger, SSDEC Chairperson notes, “This year’s award recipients exemplify educational leadership qualities that positively contribute to school improvement and student success. We are extremely proud of both their commitment to the students of the South Slave region.”

The *SSDEC Excellence in Education Award* is awarded annually to a recipient(s) nominated by their peers and selected from the following two categories:

- *Program staff* – includes teachers, administrators, consultants and education assistants serving South Slave schools
- *Partners in Education* – includes support staff (eg. secretaries and custodians) parents, students, volunteers and other community members/groups or organizations that work in support of student learning

2009-10 SSDEC Excellence in Education Awards Recipient Biographies attached

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SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
2010 Excellence in Education - Educator Award Recipient Background

Brad Wilson – Teacher, Deninu School, Fort Resolution

Brad arrived at Deninu School in the fall of 2006 as a young teacher with limited classroom experiences but quickly engaged with school instructional leaders (such as the Literacy Coach), demonstrating traits of an exceptional teacher and learner. He has been described by peers as “a teacher immersed in learning”, who is not afraid to try new ideas and projects in order to help his students succeed. As a dedicated learner himself, Brad collaborates very effectively with his colleagues and other professionals in an effort to internalize the best ideas, methods and strategies. He is respected both in the school and the community for his commitment to education and his students.

Brad’s excellent organizational skills ensure he is always well prepared and his classroom is well managed. He has worked hard to successfully integrate key aspects and strategies of the SSDEC’s Leadership for Literacy program into content and subject areas. For example, he recently demonstrated how he integrated the instructional elements of the Big 5 by using a Science unit about space travel to focus on further developing reading and writing skills. Colleagues have commented on how impressed they are with his focus on differentiation and on meeting the needs of all learners in his classroom through the gradual release of responsibility.

As well, Brad consistently uses data to drive his instruction and ensure he is meeting the needs of all of his students. He incorporates student assessment data such as CARS, attendance figures, classroom observations and regular assessments tools into his instructional planning and decision-making. His attention to individual and group ability and skill levels provides well-thought-out instruction across content areas.

Brad combines his use of data with a creativity that is truly unique. His combination of guided reading with book club provides learners with the opportunity for authentic follow-up from guided reading that is at each student’s independent reading level. Also of note is that his classroom provided the only observed regional model of Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) delivered daily within the classroom. Creative and flexible scheduling allows the intervention worker and literacy coach to run LLI groups at the same time guided reading and independent reading takes place in the classroom. He has also developed a process whereby inconsistent attenders can track their own progress in Word Study, handing them more responsibility for their own learning.

In summary, Brad Wilson’s attitude and commitment have transformed him very quickly from a rookie teacher in a new community to an educational leader who represents the kind of exemplary practice to which others aspire: one in which the needs of his students are at the forefront of his actions while he consistently demonstrates his own openness to learning.

SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
2009 Excellence in Education - Partner Award Recipient Background

Marny Twigge – Volunteer, Hay River schools, Hay River

Committed, dedicated, selfless and dependable are only a few of the adjectives that are regularly used to describe Marny Twigge, long-time volunteer in Hay River's schools. An active member of the Diamond Jenness Parent Advisory Committee for the past six years, Marny has also been instrumental in supporting Guided Reading at that school for the past three years, as well as providing academic assistance and tutoring to many students.

Marny's volunteer work is not limited to the high school, however. In 2009, she received Princess Alexandra School's Guy Turvey School-Community Award for her many years spent tutoring PA students, and for spearheading the Festival of Trees. Marny also donates her time and energy to Harry Camsell School students and staff, including assisting with the annual Christmas concert.

Staff at all three schools remark about Marny's tireless dedication and devotion to making the school environment a better place and note that students benefit from her understanding and enthusiasm towards learning. She often arranges her family and personal commitments around her school volunteer schedule.

Marny's devotion to the education of the students of Hay River is the reason she is being honoured with the 2010 SSDEC Excellence in Education Award.