

National Award for Dr. Marcie Perdue, Associate Superintendent of Student Services

Marcie Perdue has a longstanding conviction in the role of technology to enhance learning. For her, it began when she was growing up and carried a little toy tape recorder to class so that she could replay the day's lessons in order to keep up. That belief grew to become the basis for 1) a popular online teacher tool, 2) her doctoral thesis, and 3) a coveted national award.

Marcie, who became the Associate Superintendent of Student Services in February, was in Regina last week to receive an award from the Canadian Association for Teacher Education (CATE) for her PhD thesis, *Teacher Professional Knowledge Building Networks: Creating opportunities for teacher shared knowledge creation*. While she was researching and writing her thesis, she was also building a digital tool and online learning community to support teacher professional development.

"I wanted to study how teachers share knowledge and I couldn't find a tool that would support that. So I made one," Marcie explained. "It's like an online knowledge factory where people come in, ask a wondering, join a team, build a solution and share it out with everyone else. There are now about 800 teachers on Knowledge Net. It is linked to the Alberta Education Program of Studies, so most of the teachers are from Alberta. But their learning and discovery is shared with teachers across Canada and into the U.S."

Users click on a topic to mine all the tools that have been built to support knowledge and skill in that area, which

might include practice exams, assignments and related research. Once a teacher uses each tool, they build more detailed information around it and share it back out to others on the network to create ever-broadening resources.

Dirk Meyer from iCampus, along with a programmer from Romania, supported her with building the tool, and a group of researchers from India were involved in building the networking capabilities. It was a huge investment - and a long journey for the little girl who hauled a tape recorder around elementary school to help her reach her full potential.



Knowledge Net: Marcie (right) and her doctoral supervisor from the University of Calgary, Dr. Jennifer Lock, at the CATE Awards - sharing a moment of triumph after years of hard work. Marcie's thesis and the Knowledge Net tool, which is featured in the U of C's current alumni publication, also received the Dean's Silver Medal at convocation last week. Congratulations, Dr. Perdue!

École Deer Meadow performance links community and curriculum



When École Deer Meadow School in Olds staged 'Beauty and the Beast' last week, it was a showcase in collaboration. Along with all the typical effort that goes into producing a performance, the school also linked the production to a class essay writing project.

As part of their preparation for the written portion of the Language Arts PAT, Grade 6 students reviewed the components of a good newspaper article and then wrote an article based on the school performance. Ryder Hammer's article was selected as the winning entry and was published in the local paper.

'Beauty and the Beast' ran for two successful showings at the TransCanada Theatre in Olds earlier this month, with assistance from two Olds High School students.