

## EDC Corner – February 2013

Having just returned from the EDC annual conference I can report that educational development is flourishing in Canada. Last year we had 120 members of the EDC, and with 45 new people attending the conference it is obvious that interest in being part of this dynamic community is growing. The conference theme “Crossing Boundaries, Building Capacity” was fully explored in our 38 regular sessions and 2 preconference workshops. From the engaging keynote, by Dr. Connie Schroeder, on how education developers are moving from the periphery to the centre of the academy in terms of change leadership, to our closing session where we put into writing some next steps for action, what struck me the most was the depth and breadth of our discussions both round the table and between sessions. New this year at the conference was that seven participants received bursaries to attend the conference. It is important that conferences be accessible to all of us and therefore we hope to be able to continue these bursaries in the future. Also, throughout the conference the participants kept connected to one another and connecting out to the world on Twitter. The rise in the use of social media continues to amaze me. Next year’s conference, from February 19-21<sup>st</sup> at the University of Calgary and Bow Valley College promises to be about a very timely topic “Conceptions of the Profession: How Institutional Directions Shape our Practice”.

At this year’s AGM we learned more about the winners of the 2012 small grant competition that allows EDC members to perform research or develop resources for our practice. To view more about the grant recipients or to see the final reports of winners from other years go to:

<http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/grants/>

At the AGM we also heard how we have two exciting proposals for next fall’s three-day Educational Developers Institute so stay tuned for news on where the institute will be and what will be the topic. This longer Institute will be a first for the EDC and a critical step for moving our professional development forward. In addition to our use of Twitter, our Vice-chair Communications has also helped to bring our LinkedIn page to life. If you are looking for what positions are available in educational development or have a job to advertise our LinkedIn page is a great place to start. All of our action groups have been busy in the last year but I wanted to mention a new one that is evolving on “Education and Sustainability” –this speaks to a hot topic on all campuses right now. If you are interested in this topic connect with me and I will link you to this new action group.

The EDC is a vibrant and fun community. If you are interested in being even more involved with EDC I encourage you to consider joining the executive. Coming this spring we have three elections occurring. Our secretary the amazing Erika Kustra has kindly agreed to let her name stand for a second term but the positions of Vice-chair (Communications), currently held by the dynamic Natasha Kenny, and Vice-Chair (Conferences) held by the remarkable Marla Arbach, will be open come June. Talk to any of the elections nomination committee to find out more about these positions—speak to Alice Cassidy, Brad Wuetherick or Carolyn Hoessler. Our dedicated resource review coordinator, Janice Allen is also stepping down – this position presents a wonderful chance to find out about the current published literature in educational development—so please consider this opportunity too!

What can I say—the EDC is thriving and that is because we have such engaged members. As I begin my term as EDC Chair I feel blessed to have so many wonderful colleagues to work with and learn from. 2013 promises to be another milestone year for our community. Please keep in touch!