



The Educational Developers Caucus

Debra Dawson, Chair

In 2014, the EDC Executive continued to utilize the *Living Plan* to provide guidance for the direction of our work. Highlights of our work will be presented below.

Building Professional Capacity: Developing Job Skills

Our annual conference is one of the key methods that we use to enhance the professional development of our members. In 2015, the conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba with the theme of “Reflecting on Our Leap Beyond the Evidence”. It will be held at three institutions: The University of Manitoba, Red River College and the University of Winnipeg. The conference will have sessions on a variety of topics that are key to our work as developers, such as, program evaluation, curriculum mapping, strategic planning for educational development, mentoring at a distance, and supporting sessional faculty. Concurrent with this conference will be the second meeting of Vice-Provosts (Teaching and Learning) from across Canada, the National Teaching and Learning Centre’s Leaders meeting and one of two annual retreats of the Board of STLHE. We again plan on having a *Wall of Thanks* to continue to publically acknowledge the contributions of our members. The banquet at the brand new Museum for Human Rights will give us an important moment of reflection on our work as developers. Also at the meeting there will an important discussion of the issue of accrediting educational development centres’ courses or programs led by Celia Popovic from York University. The discussion paper for this topic can be found at <http://www.stlhe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EDC-Discussion-Paper-Feb-2015.pdf>

Building Professional Capacity: Sustainable Career Path

The success of the professional development Institute held in Vancouver in 2013 has led us to recognize the importance of having this event occurring more frequently. In 2015 the second annual three-day Institute will be held at York University from April 13-15. We greatly appreciate the time and dedication of Celia Popovic and her team in developing the program which will have about 60 attendees, with 15 educational developers facilitating sessions for new

and experienced developers. The Institute is fast becoming the mechanism by which we will build capacity for educational development across Canada. This comes at a critical time in our history as we have seen in the past few years an unprecedented number of new positions for developers across Canada in a wide variety of roles (such as eLearning and curriculum).

Scholarship of Educational Development

In 2014 three new projects were funded through our grants program (<http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/grants/grant-recipients-projects-proposals-and-reports/>). Carolyn Hoessler and Kim West of the University of Saskatchewan received a grant for their project entitled “Rapport Building Educational Development” (awarded under Paola Borin). Two other grants were also given, the first to Albert Johnson and Trudi Johnson of Memorial University on “In recognition of complexity: A comprehensive assessment inventory for university teaching” and the second to Natasha May and her team at York University on “Developing the Developer: A one year development plan and resource for new educational developers.” These grants continue to expand the scholarship of educational development being done across Canada and provide vital resources for developers everywhere. In addition, this year the action group led by Jeanette MacDonald on “Developing and Educational Developers Portfolio Guide” has begun concrete steps to bring this project to fruition in the coming year. This will launch the EDC’s resource guide series.

In Conclusion

We give heartfelt thanks to the incredible contributions of two members of the EDC executive Erika Kustra (Secretary) and Jordanne Christie (Vice-Chair, Conferences). Erika served two terms in her position keeping us on track and organized—we will miss her tremendously. Jordanne has ensured the success of our conferences with great efficiency. We wish her all the best with her continued studies. In the upcoming year we will be reviewing our *Living Plan* (<http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/edc-professional-development-plan/>) and this action group will be led by Natasha Kenny of the University of Calgary. Our *Living Plan* guides the day-to-day work of the EDC and therefore periodic review is essential to keep us working on the vital issues of the membership. EDC is at its core a grassroots organization, and we have seen this year that “many hands do make light work” with the incredible dedication of over 50 members to our seven action groups. I want to thank all of you for your contributions to the EDC and to enhancing educational development in Canada and internationally.