THE KEN SPENCER AWARD

Canadian Education Association
Association canadienne d'éducation

The 2014-2015 Winners of the Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning



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The 2014-2015 Winners of the CEA Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning
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Lauréats 2014-2015 du prix Ken Spencer pour l'innovation en enseignement et en apprentissage
Février 2015

Founded in 1891, the Canadian Education Association (CEA) is a network of passionate educators advancing ideas for greater student and teacher engagement in public education. CEA does this by conducting research and spreading useful ideas through its publications, website, workshops, symposia, blog, videos, and social media channels, and supporting education systems to be more adaptive to the rapidly changing needs of all learners in an effort to reverse the trend of students 'tuning out' of their learning opportunities.

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The Canadian Education Association (CEA) is proud to share summaries and contact information from the seven Ken Spencer Award winners – From inquiry and 'start-up' high schools, to mentorship, cultural and environmental appreciation, and instilling a love of Math, a tenacious group of Canadian educators and community leaders have developed impactful programs that embed deep learning while challenging our traditional concept of school.

This year's Ken Spencer Award winning programs tap into students' passions, which lead to increased motivation through meaningful relevant learning. These models exhibit well-nurtured growth, creativity, flexibility, and potential scalability to additional classrooms and schools. Their success relies upon trusting relationships built between students and teachers, mentors, business leaders, and parents, which serve to reconnect many disengaged students to a love of learning.

CEA's Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning was established with the generous contribution of Dr. Ken Spencer to recognize and publicize innovative work that is sustainable and has the potential of being taken up by others; to encourage a focus on transformative change in schools; and to provide profile for classroom innovation within school districts, schools, and the media.

Dr. Ken Spencer was a past Director of the Canadian Education Association (CEA) and retired CEO and co-founder of Creo Products. In 2011, he was inducted as a business laureate of the British Columbia Hall of Fame. Since 2009, he has generously donated the financial awards for CEA's Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

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FIRST PLACE

The Inquiry Hub (iHub)

Rethinking high school with a new model of learning

Inquiry Hub Secondary School - School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)
Coquitlam, B.C.

Now in its third year, Inquiry Hub Secondary School (iHub) includes 53 students in Grades 9-12 in a blended face-to-face and online inquiry-based environment that focuses the learning experience on the students' own interests. iHub allows students to progress at their own pace – whether they are working through core courses or experimenting with a 3D printer, coding a new app, or writing a story. Themes are used to organize learning outcomes across the curriculum to improve interest and connectedness for students while studying English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. At the same time, iHub promotes student awareness of identity, communication, design and stewardship.

The new learning structure at iHub is no longer limited to traditional course subject delivery, timetables or grade levels because students are provided significant time and resources to define and explore their own inquiry projects. The aim is to harness students' intrinsic motivation to learn by making school time meaningful and relevant for each student. Inquiry Hub Secondary School is a wonderful example of personalized learning within the public school system.







Websites: **Inquiry Hub Web Page**
www.inquiryhub.org

Ken Spencer Award Blog Post
"Inquiry Hub: Engaging students through themes and inquiry within a blended learning environment"
http://hubblog.inquiryhub.org/kenspencerapp/

Bright Ideas Gallery
http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/StaffResources/BIG/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=75

Video: **Personalized Learning Webinar Series: The Inquiry Hub**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRG8ORU5_e4#t=31

Photo Gallery: **https://www.flickr.com/photos/datruss/sets/72157649746232606/**

For more information

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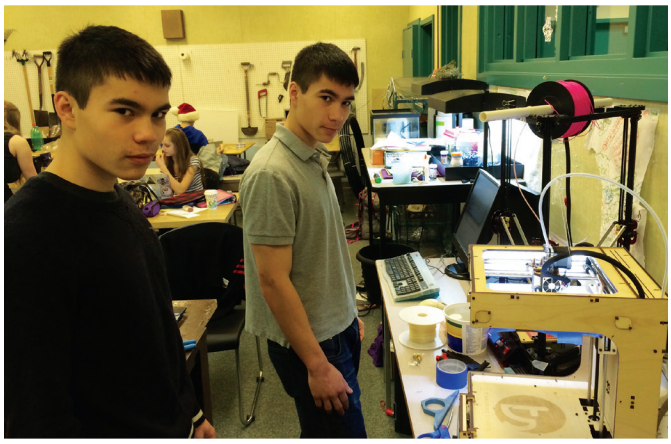
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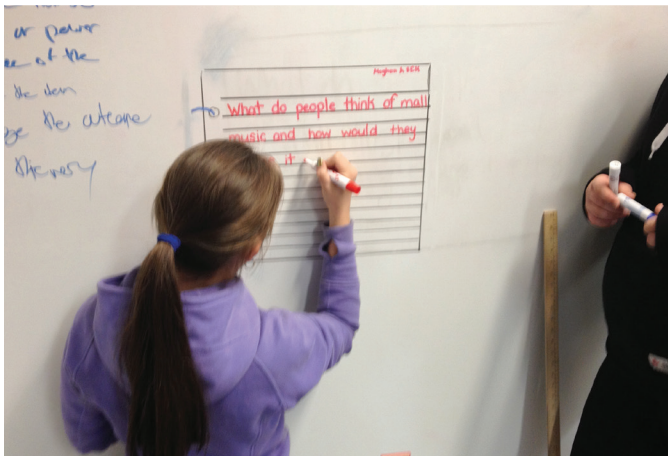












Photos: David Truss

SECOND PLACE

Living the Start Up

Connecting students with entrepreneurship to create community change

Almonte District High School – Upper Canada District School Board
Almonte, ON

How does a small community stem the youth exodus after high school graduation? Combine an entrepreneurial high school principal, a community business leader and an industrious group of high school students to work together to create a community culture of entrepreneurship to refocus the future labour market. "Living the Start Up™" establishes a relationship between students and community entrepreneurs to focus on emerging technology-based start-up opportunities.

In this program, students receive real world exposure to the pace, energy, and 'can-do' attitude required to move a bold start-up community business idea from conversation to reality. Community business leaders share their wisdom and experience while harnessing the collective energy of youth; the first step in building a future farm team of employees and developing fellow community-building entrepreneurs. This program could serve as a potential model for communities across Canada with similar economic challenges.





Website: **Almonte District High School Web Page**
http://www.ucdsb.on.ca/school/ads/Pages/default.aspx

Videos: **Interviews with a Program Student, Teacher, Principal, and Administrator**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54VBdhoVOoY

The Almonte iCoach Class
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkMfEBp_zck

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HONOURABLE MENTION

Fieldcrest Balanced Math

Taking Math teaching and learning to a whole new level

Fieldcrest Elementary School - Simcoe County District School Board
Bradford, ON

Fieldcrest Balanced Math has improved students' attitudes towards – and achievement in – mathematics. This is a sustainable and scalable program that deeply engages students in a relevant, purposeful Math learning experience. Over the past four years at Fieldcrest, each component of the Balanced Math framework (guided math, shared problem solving, independent problem solving, math journals, math facts and math games) has evolved with educators' understanding of effective teaching practices in Math for Grade 2-8 learners. The school board provides time to teachers to build their capacity in monthly staff meetings, personal learning communities and specialized PD, which all provide the tools needed to continue and grow this work.

Student achievement on classroom and provincial assessments in math is strong, and both teachers and students report growth in oral and written communication, the ability to problem-solve, fluency in Math facts, and the enjoyment of Math. When students begin asking for Math, or cheer at the mention of Balanced Math time, teachers are encouraged to continue to plan with this instructional approach in mind. With teachers sharing with colleagues throughout Simcoe County, this program has had rapid and widespread growth in both formal and informal learning settings.





Websites:

TLLP/PKE Balanced Mathematics Project Page
http://tllpbalancedmath.wikispaces.com/

Balanced Math Resources
http://www.pinterest.com/prd2bcdn77/balanced-math-resources/

***Balanced Math* by Lee Sparling**
www.winterticklepress.com

Ontario Teachers Federation Teaching and Learning Leadership Report 2013-2014
(Balanced Math case study begins on page 48)
http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/08/TLLP-Final-Report-April-2014.pdf

Videos:

Introduction to Balanced Math
http://bit.ly/BalancedMath

Math Games and Math Facts
http://bit.ly/BalancedMathGamesFactsvideo

Independent Problem Solving
http://bit.ly/BalancedMathIndependentPSvideo

Shared Problem Solving
http://bit.ly/BalancedMathSharedPSvideo

Guided Math
http://bit.ly/BalancedMathGuidedvideo

Math Journal
http://bit.ly/BalancedMathJournalvideo

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HONOURABLE MENTION

East Three Secondary School Gardening Program

Growing student engagement under the midnight sun

East Three Secondary School – Beaufort Delta Education Council
Inuvik, NT

Originally developed to combat the poor diets and low level of nutritional understanding among the largely Indigenous student population (Gw'ichin (Western Dene) or Inuvialuit (Western Inuit)), this gardening and ethnobotany program has gradually grown into a multi-faceted educational experience. Students grow several dozen crops, from herbs, heirloom tomatoes and First Nations beans, lentils, rye, along with Einkorn and other heritage grains, a few degrees above the Arctic Circle. They also participate in hunts for moose and caribou and harvest berries and medicinal plants in the autumn, set fish nets under the ice in the winter, and pluck ducks and geese in the spring. One Fall, after a successful moose hunt, students learned to butcher the animal and donated meat to local elders and families.

Last fall, students grew, harvested, processed, prepared, and consumed over $1,000 worth of produce. Food grown has been used in a Healthy Lunch Program and in a "Local Dinner" fundraiser featuring wild and local foods such as char, muskox, and reindeer. Students also participate in other service learning projects using produce they have harvested as ingredients in meals for the local Soup Kitchen. Even in Winter, classes have access to fresh produce grown by students. This program represents a model for other northern schools wishing to increase student engagement while improving attendance, and nutrition.



Photos: Patrick Gauley-Gale

Website: **Arctic School Garden Blog**
http://inuvikgarden.blogspot.ca

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HONOURABLE MENTION

7 Oaks Wayfinders Program

Reconnecting students to school and with their communities

7 Oaks School Division
Winnipeg, MB.

Wayfinders high school tutoring and mentorship program was designed to interrupt the effects of poverty and marginalization that lead to students dropping out of high school. By reaching out to students not actively engaged in school and students victimized by poverty and race in a neighbourhood where the graduation rate was only 50%, Wayfinders provides opportunities for mentoring, tutoring and volunteer endeavours in an extended school day.

In seven years, Wayfinders has grown to include 300 students, two thirds participating four hours or more per week and more than 80% achieving course completion at their particular grade level. Evening participation at the new Wayfinders Program Centre ranges from 80 to 120 students who connect with their student parent support workers (SPSWs) and tutoring/mentorship volunteers. Relationships are built with each and every student, which strengthens their connection with school, family and community, and empowers students' to explore their identity, personal growth and peer leadership – they now want to attend school. Three-quarters of Wayfinders graduates are now attending post-secondary schools.









Website: **Wayfinders Slide Presentation**
https://www.dropbox.com/s/decvs1jnucp8vik/WayfindersSlidePresentation2014%28final%29.pptx?dl=0

For more information

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HONOURABLE MENTION

No Class "room" Needed (NCN)

Solving real-world problems for deeper learning

Holy Rosary High School and St. Mary's Elementary School - Lloydminster Roman Catholic Separate School Division – Lloydminster, AB

No Class'room' Needed (NCN) is a collaboration between two Lloydminster schools and one in Uganda through a partnership with community-based organization Our Village Uganda (OVU), which supports over 350 students. Through regular technology-enabled connections, OVU began sharing their stories with over 700 Lloydminster students. Students on both continents incorporate critical and creative thinking, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and problem solving; to real-world issues in both communities. One initiative specifically focused on OVU's need for energy. HRHS raised nearly $6,000 to support the first two phases of a solar energy initiative at OVU, which was constructed last summer. Learning opportunities inherent in this activity; what was needed, the why's and how's, are plentiful.

When youth from both communities mature in each of these areas, it provides the foundation for achieving higher individual goals and post- graduation success. Furthermore it provides the learners with the power to make the world a better place. Learners within NCN are changing the traditional view of 'classroom' while expanding their world views. This project epitomizes meaningful collaboration while developing mutually beneficial learning experiences for all involved.





Website: **Our Village Uganda**
http://ourvillageuganda.org/-hrhsst-maryrsquosovu-partnership.html

Videos: **No Classroom Needed**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIl5uUyCzcQ

TV News Report about Program
http://www.tubechop.com/watch/4293814

Teacher Presentation about Program
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGu6hkGGLHY

For more information

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HONOURABLE MENTION

Island Discovery Learning Community

Community-driven student-centred learning

New Westminster School District
Bowen Island, B.C.

Island Discovery is a public alternative program located in many communities throughout B.C., with its original location on Bowen Island. It is based on a desire to motivate students to learn by empowering families to create learning communities themselves, in partnership with teachers, based on their local needs and desires. Students follow the B.C. curriculum, but split their time between teacher-led programs and community-based learning where they are provided the time and encouragement to discover their passions through varied learning experiences.

This program has grown from 30 students on Bowen Island 12 years ago to almost 400 this year. Teachers and mentors are enlisted to share their own wisdom while parents are actively involved organizing community events such as potluck dinners, picnics, and dances. Activities include, for example, a group of families who have created a two-day outdoor education program, where students spend one whole day on the farm learning sustainable farming practices, and another day in the forest, learning from an ecology expert (Fresh Air Learning). Program graduates have continued to excel in traditional high school grades 10-12, which further supports the potential for this program to be used on a broader basis.





Website: **Island Discovery Learning Community**
http://www.islanddiscovery.ca

Video: **The Story of the Island Discovery Learning Community**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QlMYYGRYao&feature=youtu.be

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