

Media Release
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For Immediate Release

Sun West School Division Receives 2nd Place Award for Blended Learning Initiative

(Source: <http://www.cea-ace.ca/awards/canadian-innovators-education-awards>)

CEA and Reader's Digest Canada are pleased to recognize three award-winning school districts that are leading lasting and system-changing K-12 initiatives with cash prizes of \$25,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 will be presented to these winning school districts to continue to support and grow their innovative programs and initiatives.



(From left to right) Roger Paul (CEA Chair), Robert Goyette (Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief of Reader's Digest Canada), Darren Gasper (Superintendent of Education, Sun West School Division), Curtis Brown (Superintendent, South Slave Divisional Education Council), Marnie Birkeland and Keely Flannigan (Teachers and Instructional Leadership Team members, Central Okanagan School District), and Ron Canuel (CEA President and CEO)

Source: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ad36f7933a&id=81311862f7&e=2ae30d9813>

Sun West School Division was awarded Second Prize of \$10,000 for a district-wide blended learning system. [Read the full Reader's Digest article.](#)

In order to infuse 21st Century skill development in all aspects of learning within the division, the SWSD Board established a \$1,000,000 innovation fund for a 3-year period as a lever to encourage schools to develop innovative projects focused on improving student learning and teaching. This focus on 21st Century Competencies (21CC) coupled with the Distance Learning Centre's digitized supports and added financial incentives have created a real appetite for enhanced PD opportunities.

This initiative has introduced new ways of thinking about learning and teaching by capturing the current innovative practices in classrooms through the use of technology, in a wise manner, and is spreading these new approaches in classrooms throughout the school district.

The Canadian Innovators in Education Awards will celebrate and promote educators who are leading lasting and system-changing initiatives at all levels of K-12 education in Canada.

These awards will recognize and showcase the work of teachers, principals and administrators who are developing innovative teaching and learning programs throughout their school districts with a particular focus on improving student engagement and learning.

The two other divisions that won were: first prize for Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Central Okanagan School District in Kelowna, BC; and third prize went to Leadership for Literacy (L4L) of South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), in Fort Smith, NT.

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