



**SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Success for all

Media Release
March 23, 2015
For Immediate Release

**JADE BALLEK SELECTED AS THE FIRST
PRINCIPAL OF THE DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE IN KENASTON**

A familiar figure will soon take over the helm at the Distance Learning Centre (DLC) in Kenaston. Jade Ballek, Sun West's current Learning Consultant will begin her new position at the Distance Learning Centre at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Jade received her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and her Masters of Education in Curriculum, specialization in Educational Technology and Design from the University of Saskatchewan. Jade has held several positions in Sun West beginning her teaching career in Outlook for nine years. She was a learning coach for four years, and has been a learning consultant since 2012. Jade has taken leadership for several unique projects in Sun West, including managing the Blended Learning SWISI project, supporting instructional design of online courses for the DLC, she's developed and facilitated online learning modules for 21st Century Educators in Sun West, and overseen several innovative technology based supports and tools for teachers in the classroom. She also has presented at several professional development conferences in Saskatchewan, across Canada and in the United States. As well she is also a member of several professional associations and has had seven graduate papers published.

Jade says "I am honoured to be given an opportunity to play a leadership role at the Sun West Distance Learning Centre in Kenaston. Online learning at the DLC provides students the opportunity to enroll in a wide variety of core and elective courses at the K-12 level that meet individual learning needs and interests. We continue to expand career pathways for students via dual credit courses with the University of Saskatchewan as well developing a growing selection of electives such as Power Engineering, Paleontology, Equine Technician, and Leadership 20/30 to name a few. I look forward to being a part of a team that strives for excellence as we focus on doing what is best for students not only in Sun West, but across the province. It's certainly an exciting time to be an educator and a student in Saskatchewan!"

With over 400 full time students and over another 4,000 individual courses being taught by DLC staff, the Board agreed that a stand-alone DLC needed to be built. The DLC will be a stand-alone school and have capacity for housing approximately 100 teachers. The tender for construction was awarded to Quorex Construction. Plans are to have the new DLC school built by Christmas 2015.

Jade farms with her husband Norman in Outlook, is the proud mother of three boys and is very involved in the community of Outlook. A recent photograph of Jade is attached to this media release.

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