



## SSLA Awards and Bursary

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### Biography of Award or Bursary Recipient

#### **Art Forgay Award of Recognition of Administrator**

#### **2010 Recipient – Pat Jamison**

In 2002 the Saskatoon Public School Division #13 faced budgetary constraints, which resulted in the reduction of time of the teacher librarian role in all schools K-12, and the elimination of the Coordinator of the Learning Resources Branch at Central Office.

Some saw school libraries, which had once been a key instructional and learning component to the educational goals of the school division, as on the way to irrelevance in a world of rapid technological change and access to information via the Internet.

While many failed to recognize or understand the importance of school libraries to student learning, Patricia Jamison believed that teacher librarians held the expertise to be at the centre of curriculum renewal, the implementation of the inquiry stance in instruction, and the integration of technology to instruction and learning.

Her ongoing work on various division level initiatives seeks to re-emphasize the critical role of the teacher librarian in learning, in technological integration, in literacy, and the overall academic achievement of students.

In addition, she has been working collaboratively with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to build print and non-print displays, which identify learning resources appropriate to the learning needs of all students at a time of major curricular renewal at all grade levels and across all subject areas. In her capacity as Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction for Saskatoon Public Schools, Patricia expanded her job description to work closely with teacher librarians locally and to represent the school division at Provincial Library Networking meetings organized by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. This has resulted in the creation of the Teacher Librarian Advisory Committee and Teacher Librarian Networking meetings to ensure the efficacy of school library programs across the Saskatoon Public School Division. Under her leadership, the Teacher Librarian Advisory Committee prepared "*The School Libraries Support Document*" (January 2009) to provide guidelines and operational standards for the instruction/assessment, development and management components of school library programs. This document seeks to align the school library program in Saskatoon Public Schools with the foundational document "*Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan*" (Ministry of Education 2008). Furthermore, she oversees the development and maintenance of the centralized Curriculum Materials and Audiovisual Library collections at the school division office.

As schools continue to face the challenge of educational change in order to be relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner, Patricia sees school libraries with qualified teacher librarians as becoming even more essential in the lives of teachers and students. As an ardent supporter of the role of teacher librarians, Patricia Jamison advocates for strong and effective school library programs as an essential component to student learning and engagement. For all of these

reasons, we, the teacher librarians at the Saskatoon Public School Division, are proud to celebrate our friend, Patricia Jamison as a truly deserving winner of the Art Forgay Award of Recognition.

*Submitted by Kim Johnson and Ruth Garnett*

