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Each year the Saskatchewan School Library Association, a special subject council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, holds an awards presentation to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to school library service in Saskatchewan. I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the Connie Acton Award of Merit for 2015 is Ms. Diane Barsi of Saskatoon, SK. The award was presented at the SSLA's Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon on February 27, 2015.

We are grateful to the nominators for submitting the nomination for this most worthy recipient on behalf of Holliston School Staff and Diane's network of teacher-librarians in Saskatoon Public. During the award's presentation Diane's impact on student learning through her work in developing school library programs as a teacher-librarian was highlighted.

Diane Barsi exemplifies all of the attributes of the kind of quality teacher librarian any student or teacher could wish for. A teacher-librarian for the past 15 years, Diane is influential in developing the school library. At the forefront of implementing inquiry learning Diane has been instrumental in helping students develop cross-curricular inquiry projects. She has guided students through all stages of inquiry: working with students to refine inquiry questions, encouraging them to seek deeper knowledge; explicitly teaching the methods of inquiry, incorporating curriculum content and creating critical thinkers; and co-creating project criteria with students. Diane also teaches web literacy skills such as validating websites and using databases. She maintains a quality LibGuide that benefits Holliston staff and students.

Diane is a recognized support for her teachers, always willing and eager to collaborate to design learning activities. She is fearless in her approach to technology and gives of her time to train not only her teachers, but her teacher-librarian colleagues in the use of the latest technology and how to incorporate it into their lessons. Always up on the current research, Diane provides professional development to her staff by sharing articles and enthusiastically sharing her learning.

Diane's contributions to the field of teacher-librarianship in Saskatoon must also be highlighted. With her unassuming presence, she demonstrates leadership as she promotes sound school library development and practice through her various roles. Diane has been on the executive of Saskatoon's Teacher Librarian Council. She has also been part of an SSLA conference planning committee. Diane is currently piloting the SSLA digital badging program. Go Diane!

Whether she is using QR codes to ensure interactive learning with library displays or creating excitement and interest in the new books, Diane turns her students on to learning. In fact after working on an inquiry unit with Mrs. Barsi, students have been known to develop a true passion for social justice initiatives and believe that they can change the world. Quoting one of Diane's colleagues, "Without Mrs. Barsi, this project wouldn't have happened." Diane Barsi has made outstanding contributions in advocating for the development of an effective school library program. Her students and staff have benefited from her tireless efforts, her TL colleagues have learned from her selfless sharing and mentoring. It is with pleasure that I join the Holliston staff and Diane's colleagues in the wider Saskatoon Public network to present Diane with the Connie Acton Award of Merit.



SSLA President Carlene Walter presents Diane Barsi with the 2015 Connie Acton Award of Merit at the AGM of the Saskatchewan School Library Association, February 27, 2015.

