

The DLC BUZZ



As winter made an appearance early this year, DLC students in our various agriculture-based courses needed to get creative in tackling the hands-on portion of their study. In each of our Cow/Calf, Equine and Field Crop Studies courses, there is an online, theoretical element and a practical, in-the-field component. Course assessment is based on a combination of written assignments, video submissions, and a comprehensive resource manual that the student compiles throughout his/her course. For more information on these and our other 80+ unique electives, visit www.sunwestdlc.ca/courses.



www.sunwestdlc.ca

Teacher Feature

Haddie Korolis



I am Ms. Colleen Underwood, soon to be Haddie Korolis (I got married Christmas Eve, 2015 and prefer my alternate name - just waiting on the paperwork) and I am one of the many teachers at the DLC. I live in Saskatoon with my spouse, two daughters, a son, two dogs, a cat and a snake.

I went to the U of S, then took my skills abroad to the United Kingdom teaching in Dartford, Kent - the hometown of Mick Jagger. After that, I joined the Distance Learning Centre in September of 2014, beginning my teaching career here in Canada.

I think that change is one of the many things in the world we can rely on, and because of that I believe that being prepared for what the world has to offer us is important. I want to help the young people of today, whatever today is, to be true to themselves, to be equipped to enjoy the day-to-day of life and be ready for the challenges that come.

I think that education is the key that opens doors. Those doors can lead to careers, relationships, or even happiness. A self-analyzed life is the healthiest - do what you love, love what you do and know why you want to do it.



Join us on social media for all the latest DLC news and updates.

Student Leadership on a National Platform

According to DLC teacher Kristin Sampson, the DLC couldn't have been better represented at the Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) in Edmunston, New Brunswick last month.

Sampson accompanied three DLC students to the week long conference where they interacted with over 1,000 delegates from across the country. In addition to participating in a wide variety of leadership-focused workshops, they also presented a group research project on the hidden sugars in sports drinks and power bars and shared recommendations on healthy lifestyles choices to a subset of the conference crowd. "Very few attendees had the opportunity to present at the conference," said Sampson, "but we created an opportunity for them and they capitalized on it. As a DLC teacher, I was very proud."

"My favourite part about CSLC was meeting strong student leaders from all over Canada who were just as excited as I was to be there!" said one of the lucky conference-goers. "I really expanded my knowledge on what leadership can be and how I can improve as a leader."

The opportunity to attend the DSLC was made available through the DLC Leadership 20 course. Over the course of their studies, these Grade 10 and 11 students study effective communications skills and conduct self-evaluations of their own leadership competencies and styles. Then, through a competitive application process, students must prove to a selection committee why they want to go and how they will demonstrate what they've learned.

The DLC believes strongly that opportunities like this make critical - and lasting - connections between theory and practice. "As a school, we are always trying to create connections," says Principal Jade Ballek. "Connections between classroom and workplace, between teacher and student, between peers. Distance education does not mean that learners are on their own, instead it means we have the flexibility to be innovative and non-traditional in our approach."



Sun West Career Development Comes To Life on Social Media

Designed for our Sun West students, families, and staff, we invite you all to follow us on our *Sun West Career Development* Facebook page or, if you prefer Twitter, @careerconnect. We are using these social media platforms to share career-advancement opportunities, employment-related information, and valuable life-transition resources that we have developed or learned about.

You can also access information pertaining to post secondary institutions and their initiatives, including where to find and how to prepare for scholarships, scholarship deadlines and events, such as school visits for colleges and universities, that are geared towards high school students.

If you have questions about an event, initiative or any other content, please contact the DLC Career Counsellor, Renee Harrison, at renee.harrison@sunwestdlc.ca.



@careerconnect



Sun West Career Development

www.sunwestdlc.ca

REVAMPING CREATIVE WRITING 20

KAYLA OSIKA TALKS ABOUT THIS NEW & IMPROVED HUMANITIES ELECTIVE

Creative Writing 20 falls under the English Language Arts umbrella and it delves into poetry, fiction, non-fiction and script writing. Students read, dissect, and compose in all four of these modes. The course is designed to refine and strengthen writing skills, resulting in a more confident and experienced writer.

Is this course a fit for you? If you love to write and want to learn more about different genres of creative writing, we would say yes. Creative Writing 20 not only creates opportunities for you to produce creative prose but it introduces you to a plethora of contests and publications that you can submit your work to. Some of these competitions include the "2017 CBC Short Story Prize" as well as the annual "Windscript" publication. At the end of the course, you will have a portfolio of your work which can be a valuable asset as you pursue a career in the creative writing field.

Currently, the course is under development, and registration is restricted. The new and improved version of this course will be available in January 2017.

The Principal's Take

JADE BALLEK - MOTHER, WIFE, PRINCIPAL, EDUCATOR, & COACH



In an online school, sometimes it is difficult to get to know each other through the computer or over the phone. But relationships are extremely important to us and this year, we are focusing on building stronger connections with you, our students, and all the people who support you in your learning. In addition to phone calls and emails, we are hosting a number of workshops and field trips for students, including the cultural arts workshop we had this past month.

Thank you to those who were able to make the trip to Kenaston to participate. Judging by the smiles at the end of the day, it was an overwhelming success!

The introduction of online extra-curricular clubs is new for the DLC, and we've already starting bringing students together virtually in our photography, gaming, and eco clubs. As well, we have started hosting live sessions where you can learn more about the services we offer, such as the role of our career counsellor and in the near future, you can take a virtual tour of our school.

We believe that online learning can empower every learner and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be your educational partner. Please feel free to connect with us via phone, email, through Facebook or Twitter. And if you are in the Kenaston area, please stop by... we'd love to show you around.

Jade Ballek

DLC Wraps up Inaugural Division-Wide Road Show

Having lovingly referred to their cross-division tour as a Circus on Wheels, DLC teachers are back at their desks after two weeks of travel to high schools throughout Sun West School Division.

Initially, these visits had a promotional mandate as the DLC sought to provide current and timely information about the diverse selection of courses and educational resources available at our school.

Feedback confirmed that students were hungry for news on the latest course options and particularly eager to learn about specific strands such as trades-based Practical and Applied Arts, agriculture and the very unique 4th Class Power Engineering program.

And while we were more than happy

to answer all of their questions, it quickly became apparent that there was a second - and equally invaluable - opportunity presented through these visits; the opportunity to listen and understand exactly what the learning experience is like for our online students.

"We look at things through a teacher's eyes when we develop courses, so it was great to hear from the student how *they* see our courses," said DLC teacher, Doug Gasper. "When we were in the schools, we heard first hand about the positives - which affirm what's working - and the negatives - which provide specific direction when it comes to course improvements."

This casual, small-group setting also invited meaningful discussion around the misconceptions around what the DLC can and cannot do and why processes are the way they are. For

example, some students wanted to know why the DLC couldn't simply eliminate Internet accessibility issues by providing all course materials in either paper or DVD format.

Conversations around copyright laws - which have a major impact on what can and cannot be redistributed - enabled students to better understand the parameters that the DLC operates within.

"From those conversations, we now have a better understanding of the gaps in our communications and the areas in which we need to be proactively circulating answers to those questions," says Tanya Ringdal, who leads DLC marketing and communications efforts.

Now that we've wrapped up the road show, everyone has returned to their desks to apply what they've learned and to move forward with a clearer sense of exactly what our students need to succeed.