



# Creating Futures

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Educators in South Slave Honoured with Two Premier's Awards of Excellence***

Fort Smith, NT – During a special awards ceremony June 16 at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife, two employees of the South Slave Divisional Education Council were among a select group of public servants recognized by Premier Joseph Handley for excellence, innovation and dedication in their work.

Receiving an award for individual excellence was *Carol Grimm*, vice-principal and former program support teacher at Harry Camsell School in Hay River. “This dedicated educator has spent her lifetime promoting literacy, including stints on both the award winning SSDEC Literacy Committee and the Literacy Commission of the NWT. She is an extremely hard worker with an infectious attitude who is knowledgeable, skilled and creative,” says SSDEC superintendent Curtis Brown. “She is a respected role model who is also loved by students, parents and staff alike.”

Receiving the group award of excellence was the *South Slave Communities' Learning Network*, a partnership between the South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), Aurora College Thebacha Campus and the South Slave office of Education, Culture & Employment (ECE). *Lawrie Hobart*, who represented the SSDEC at the awards ceremony, says he is pleased that the group's efforts have been recognized at the territorial level. “This award is the result of several years of successful joint ventures which benefit South Slave students such as the South Slave Trades Awareness Program, SSDEC Career Development initiative, and Lutsel K'e High School/Adult Educator partnership.”

The major initiative recognized in the partnership is the highly successful Trades Awareness Program (TAP). The program gives high school students from across the region access to the trades shops, equipment and instructional expertise available at Aurora College and the trades-related businesses located in Fort Smith. Students receive hands-on experience as they rotate through several trades during the introductory sessions or spend four days in a trade of their choice during the intensive second phase.

Superintendent Brown notes, “These initiatives would not have achieved this level of success without the support and efforts of many hard working people, starting with Aurora College -Thebacha Campus Director *Kathy Purchase* and ECE Regional Superintendent *Sydney O’Sullivan*. Also key to TAP’s success are the College instructors, student residence staff, Career Centre staffs, local businesses, school administrators and chaperones, and the high school students themselves who have eagerly embraced the new opportunities.”

Only two group and four individual Premier’s Awards of Excellence were presented in 2006. Selection criteria included finding creative and unique solutions that improve government-wide systems or processes, exceptional performance on a continuing basis, or outstanding commitment to complex projects and/or ongoing activities.

“We’re very proud of Carol Grimm and the South Slave Communities’ Learning Network,” says SSDEC superintendent *Curtis Brown*. “This is the most prestigious award given to government employees of the Northwest Territories.”

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*Notes – an electronic picture of the South Slave Communities’ Learning Network with their awards is available by contacting Jayne Murray*

*- a picture of Carol Grimm accepting her award from Premier Joseph Handley can be viewed at [www.premier.gov.nt.ca/gallery/38](http://www.premier.gov.nt.ca/gallery/38)*