



# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Media Information

June 12, 2008

### **School District No. 23 a Laureate Finalist in the Computerworld Honors Program**

KELOWNA, BC: School District No. 23 has something in common with the FBI, Warner Bros., and the New York Police Department—all were honoured at the 20th Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony & Gala Awards Evening on June 2 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. The impressive gala event honoured 209 organizations and individuals from 26 countries. School District No. 23 received a Laureate Finalist award for its iLearn laptop program. Currently, the District has one of the most extensive student classroom technology and laptop computer programs in North America.

Blair Hope and Jason Schaad from the Learning Technology Department travelled to Washington, D.C. to accept the award on behalf of the District. They also presented the award to the District Board of Education at the June 11 meeting.

“Receiving this award was a tremendous honour considering the company we were in,” says Schaad. “Thanks to the Board for taking such a chance on the iLearn program.”

The magnitude of the award ceremony was a “humbling experience” for Hope. “We were in the company of representatives from major organizations from all over the world. We didn’t realize how prestigious the award would be. We’d like to thank all the people in the District who have been involved in the success of iLearn.”

This award is granted by the Computerworld Honors Program. The award was established to acknowledge those individuals and organizations that have used information technology to benefit society. Award winners are selected by the Chairmen and CEOs of the world’s foremost information technology companies. The technology achievements honoured by this program are preserved and protected in national archives, and in over 350 universities, museums, and research institutions throughout the world.

Computerworld is the leading source of technology news and information for IT influencers worldwide. Computerworld’s website ([www.computerworld.com](http://www.computerworld.com)), weekly publication, focused conference series and custom research form the hub of the world’s largest (40+ edition) global IT media network.

Additional information about the District’s nomination and the award is available in the April 8 media release (attached).

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For comments, please contact:

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# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Media Information

April 8, 2008

### **School District No. 23 Honoured with Computerworld Laureate Designation**

**Kelowna, BC:** School District No. 23's Together iLearn program has been recognized as a 2008 Laureate by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation. This year's Honorees will be commemorated during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony & Gala Awards Evening on June 2, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Fifty Laureates will be unveiled as finalists at the ceremony and three will receive top honours.

Together iLearn is an innovative program developed by School District No. 23 to provide students the use of a laptop computer to complete course work at home and at school. Students also develop computer skills that are vital in a growing number of job fields. Through this program, students who would otherwise not be able to afford a computer have the same access as their classmates. Together iLearn began in the 2006/2007 school year following extensive planning regarding software, hardware, and ongoing maintenance. Together iLearn operated on a budget of 2.38 million in the 2007/2008 school year.

"We are very pleased to be recognized by Computerworld," said Jon Rever, Director of Technology and Education Services. "Together iLearn is the largest program of its kind in British Columbia. School District No. 23 has been a trailblazer in developing and evolving this program. We have heard many positive comments about improved student performance and greater enthusiasm for doing home work and research. Together iLearn has been a significant project requiring a tremendous amount of teamwork so this is a real honour."

Established in 1988, The Computerworld Honors Program brings together a group of 100 chairpeople/CEOs of global technology companies to recognize and document the achievements of the men, women, organizations and institutions around the world, whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change. The Together iLearn Case Study was prepared and submitted by Rever.

"Each year, the Computerworld Honors Program seeks to recognize organizations from a variety of sectors for their ongoing efforts to utilize technology in order to benefit society," said Ron Milton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation and Executive Vice President of Computerworld.

The achievements honored by Computerworld are preserved in national archives and in more than 350 universities, museums and research institutions throughout the world.

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For further information or comments, please contact:

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Computerworld Honors Program information at <http://www.cwhonors.org>

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