

Stu Conger Award in Career Counselling and Career Development, 2006

Recipient: Kris Magnusson

Biography

Dr. Kris Magnusson is a professor and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Lethbridge. He is the author of seven books ranging in diversity from "Theories of Career Development" (co-authored with Dr. Dave Redekopp) to a self-help career book, "Radical Change in the World of Work: The Workbook," a title with a circulation of 100,000 copies. He is a prolific researcher whose key interest is in the application of research to career counselling practice. He has authored or co-authored 17 refereed articles, is currently a member of the Canadian Research Working Group for Evidence-Based Practice in Career Development (CRWG) and the co-author (with Dr. Vivian Lalande) of "The State of Practice in Canada in Measuring Career Services Impact: A CRWG Report."

Dr. Magnusson has significantly influenced the Canadian career practitioner community. He is a creator and an innovator. He played a pivotal role in creating, in Concordia College, Canada's first English post-degree program focusing exclusively on career development. This diploma program became a model for many of the career development programs currently offered across English Canada. He recently was instrumental in creating Campus Alberta, a partnership of three Alberta universities to provide a distance Master's degree with a specialization in career counselling. He was instrumental in building the now well established Master of Education in Counselling Psychology at the University of Lethbridge and has been instrumental in restructuring the Counselling Service for students at the university.

His teaching excellence is regularly recognized and appreciated. His students' course evaluations are consistently in the superior/outstanding range and he is applauded for the depth and breadth of content offered and for his rigorous high standards.

His span of influence includes undergraduate programming where he has developed undergraduate specializations in Special Education and Early Childhood Education and the development of Ni'itsitapi, Canada's first Aboriginal Teacher Training program based on culturally-specific (Blackfoot) language and values. His influence extends into organizations through the development of methods for infusing career development principles into organizational settings and a program to teach supervisors and managers to have meaningful conversations about significant career development issues with their employees.

Dr. Magnusson's contributions to advancing career development in Canada are always grounded in theory but translated into practice. He is a scholar of theoretical and philosophical depth and possesses an exceptional talent in making his scholarship practical, accessible and applicable to real life career development practitioners and their practice.