

Stu Conger Award in Career Counselling and Career Development, 2014

Recipient: Dr. Deirdre Pickerell

Biography

Deirdre exemplifies the type of leadership in career development in Canada (and beyond) that the Stu Conger award is intended to recognize.

Ten years ago Deirdre joined Life Strategies and is now its Vice-President. She has been a consistent innovator including developing the first fully online certificate program for career development Practitioners. She mapped this program to the Canadian S & Gs, the CCE's Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) competencies, and IAEVG's Educational and Vocational Guidance Practitioner (EVGP) competencies and has worked closely with training providers across Canada to get their curricula approved as meeting the GCDF-Canada criteria. This has opened the door to hundreds of career practitioners to get global recognition for their sector-related training. Her most comprehensive and innovative research project, however, was her recently completed doctoral dissertation examining the Career Engagement of Canadian Career Development Practitioners. Her dissertation is recognized as showing considerable promise for theory, research and practice.

Deirdre has devoted many hours to leadership roles within several different career development organizations and associations. She has served as Co-Executive Co-ordinator of ENET, Vice President of the Career Colleges Association, Chair of the BC Career Information Partnership, Co-ordinator of the Career Advancement Network for the BC Human Resource Management Association, and is currently serving as the Bylaws Director for the Asia Pacific Career Development Association. She has served on numerous committees including work to develop and recently revise the Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners and is a highly respected leader throughout the career development sector, both in Canada and internationally.

Deirdre's work has been described as transformational in regard to workforce engagement and career planning. She is an exemplary leader in the field of career development and a deserving recipient of the Stu Conger Award.