



Alberta Association of Library Technicians

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TIC-TAC LEADER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AALT AWARD

(Banff, AB) - Michelle Groth, Library Technician at the Medicine Hat Public Library in Medicine Hat, is the recipient of the 2006 Merle Harris Achievement Award. This award, the highest granted by the Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT), is given to a Library Technician in recognition for distinguished service in the library field in Alberta. Michelle Groth is an ideal candidate for this prestigious award in recognition of her unselfish contribution to the young adult literacy and development in Medicine Hat and for her work with the TIC-TAC group. Merle Harris, author, story teller and literacy advocate, presented the award at the 32nd AALT Conference held at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, on May 25 – 28, 2006.

Five years ago, on her own initiative, Michelle proposed a summer program for young adults. Because of its popularity, it has now become a regular part of the summer schedule. In 2002, Michelle was appointed to the newly created position of Youth Outreach Coordinator. Since the creation of this position, Michelle has forged harmonious relationships with her young adult advisory board, TIC-TAC, a name chosen by the group themselves, meaning “Teens Initiating Change – Together and Committed.” This group assists Michelle in the young adult collection development and Michelle in turn assists TIC-TAC in presenting programs for youth. In 2004, a young adult area call Youthopia was opened in the Medicine Hat Public Library. Michelle and the TIC-TAC group were the driving force behind this area, designing it and turning it into a very popular place for the youth. In Michelle’s words, “they’re a great bunch and I feel lucky to work with them.”

Learning how to make the young adult program work on a shoestring budget is an experience that Michelle is very willing to share. In the past, she has presented sessions at the AALT conference and the Marigold Library System conference. This past year, at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, Michelle teamed up with a youth librarian from Edmonton Public Library to present a session on two different approaches to youth programming.

Michelle’s ability to connect with the young adults and get them to take ownership of the library goes beyond her library technician training and that obtained through raising three children of her own, including a set of twins. Michelle’s love of literacy and libraries combined with her outgoing personality and genuine affinity for young people has made her a shining light in the library field.

Michelle Groth is a graduate of the Library Technician Program at SAIT.

For additional information about AALT and their awards, please visit www.aalt.org or contact AALT at P.O. Box 700, Edmonton, AB T5J 2L4.

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