

Horizon School District gets A+ for Inclusion

For nearly 16 years, Horizon Division has been a staple in southern Alberta, educating students, giving them the brightest future possible. Part of this includes establishing partnerships with surrounding communities to help ensure that schools and rural ways of life can stay strong and viable.

From initiatives like the Warner Hockey School and the Vauxhall Academy of Baseball, Supt. Cheryl Gilmore believes the hard work is paying off.

It's for this outreach that Horizon was presented with SouthGrow's 2010 Award of Excellence in Collaboration or Partnership.

The division, active since 1994, has established partnerships with 10 surrounding communities, as well as various services, businesses and agencies.

"Partnerships enable the schools to provide programs and services that would not otherwise be possible," says Gilmore. "What distinguishes Horizon is the unique ability to be flexible and precise at the same time within collaborative processes."

The board and administration felt honored to be recognized," says Gilmore. "We value the partnerships we have with business and industry and believe that together building a sustainable and viable future is possible in rural Alberta."

The division is working on many new and exciting initiatives to further its cause, including Opportunity Shop, which will focus on keeping at-risk students in school.



Supt. Cheryl Gilmore is proud of her board's vision.

At-risk students are linked with employers and a flexible school program is structured to allow for successful completion of high school," says Gilmore. "They can do this while working on opportunities for post-graduation."

The division is also working on programs and strategies to promote health and well-being to give students an understanding of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Gilmore says she enjoys making a difference.

"I enjoy working for a board that has a vision of the future and is proactive about maximizing resources to meet the needs of students," says Gilmore.

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