Trailblazing Sarnia Teacher Wins Energy Educator of the Year Award

Ottawa, June 2, 2020 – Deborah Lumley, a vanguard Grade 5/6 teacher at Rosedale Public School in Sarnia, Ont., has been named the 2020 Energy Educator of the Year for her ongoing commitment to environmental education. The prize is one of two given out annually to a primary and secondary educator as part of the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge (CEDC), an award-winning educational program. This is the second time a Sarnia teacher has won this prestigious national award.

“My students were very excited to be part of the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge. To have their work and teacher recognized means so much,” says Lumley. “The CEDC has taught us to take action and make changes in our lifestyles. We hope that our learnings provide us with opportunities for positive change for the future.”

Going an hour without power, calculating your carbon footprint, and working with your household to use less water—theese were just a few of the 16 energy-related challenges that engaged almost 40,000 students from across Canada during the 9th annual Classroom Energy Diet Challenge. Lumley’s class was one of more than 1,400 classrooms from across Canada that registered to participate in the CEDC this year.

Lumley and her classes are no stranger to environmental awards. Her 2019-2020 class was nominated for the City of Sarnia’s Greenest Classroom this year, an award her class has won twice in the last four years. With this track record, it was no surprise that the local community, and past and present students, joined forces to nominate this much-admired teacher for one of Canada’s top teaching honours. Monica Brown and her son Grayson both nominated Ms. Lumley for her ability to captivate her students’ attention when it comes to the fundamentals of energy literacy.

“The activities he brought home highlighted questions and topics that we could address as a family,” says Brown. “We’ve made a lot of changes around the house, including watching our water and electricity consumption, and using reusable bags and food storage containers. This is really all thanks to Ms. Lumley. Her enthusiasm and commitment to these initiatives helping us do our part to protect the environment.”

As school closures due to COVID-19 were announced, contest organizers modified the challenges to allow students and teachers to participate virtually. “Ms. Lumley and her group of students, as well as all the other participating classrooms across the country, were able to overcome significant obstacles and complete the challenges in new and creative ways” says Michelle Chaput, Director of Education at Canadian Geographic Education. “She is a local energy hero and I’m thrilled that she is getting national recognition for her trailblazing efforts.”

Nearing its 10th anniversary, the CEDC is Canada’s largest, bilingual, curriculum-based energy literacy competition that targets K-12 students and empowers them to join a community of young environmental stewards. This innovative national program is presented by Canadian Geographic Education with support from Shell Canada.
About Canadian Geographic Education

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