

DATE: January 31, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: District Award – Social Studies and Language Arts (Trustee Request #152)
ORIGINATOR: Tanni Parker, Assistant Superintendent, Student Learning Services
RESOURCE STAFF: Bruce Cline, Sandy Forster, Anthony Walsh
REFERENCE: December 13, 2011 Board Meeting (Trustee Cleary)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: provide ideas and options for a district award that recognizes outstanding teaching in the areas of Social Studies and Language Arts. Also provide a list of suitable partners that the District could approach to sponsor this award (similar to the APEGGA Teachers' Award Program for Science and Math).

BACKGROUND

The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) represent a large group of professionals whose primary occupational activity is directly related to math and sciences. Through their Education Foundation awards, they recognize the inspired teaching of core skills and knowledge in math and science.

CURRENT SITUATION

There are no similar associations to APEGGA in Alberta whose members' occupation is primarily based on the disciplines of social studies or language arts teaching. Numerous organizations exist who reward the outcome or product of social studies and language arts knowledge and skills. These organizations are primarily literary and reward an individual's work product, not their teaching.

The following is a listing of some organizations that might be approached to be potential sponsors of awards for teaching social studies or language arts. Each of these listed already provide awards of some type to either members of their organizations or members of the public. The list is by no means comprehensive but is a starting point.

Language arts related organizations:

[Alberta Writers Guild](#)
[Canadian Association of Journalism](#)
[Canadian Author Association](#)
[Society for Technical Communication](#)

Social studies related organizations:

[Alberta Historical Resources Foundation](#)
[Edmonton and District Historical Society](#)
[Heritage Canada](#)
[Historica](#)

[Historical Society of Alberta](#)
[Petroleum History Society](#)

KEY POINTS

Both Alberta Education and the Alberta Teachers' Association provide awards for excellence in teaching but not for specific disciplines.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

BC:jf