

CLC Director comes home to Olds

Dot Negropontes has accepted a temporary posting as Director of the Community Learning Campus (CLC), a role that will bring her home to Olds.

Negropontes, who was born and raised in Olds, will be familiar to residents throughout the area for her role as Assistant Superintendent of Chinook's Edge School Division. She has led and influenced the delivery of education in the region for years through her previous positions as vice-principal of Olds Junior-Senior High and principal of Deer Meadow School, a middle school which opened its doors under her direction. She is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in educational leadership at the University of Calgary, and accepted the CLC role when Director Rob Mackenzie requested a leave of absence to tend to a family health matter.

"I have believed strongly in the CLC project from the very first conversation and feel privileged to be part of the leadership team at this level," said Negropontes, whose appointment as CLC Director takes effect on March 20, 2006. "I came to know Rob Mackenzie when we were co-chairs of the CLC Steering Committee. I have an enormous amount of respect for him, both as a person and as such a steadfast believer in the CLC vision. He is a gentle and gracious leader who has brought the CLC vision to life and I am very happy to be able to help out in this way.

"When I watched the passion of the community as residents came together to discuss the CLC vision, I knew I was involved in an absolutely phenomenal project. The sense of community extended well beyond Olds, and has come to include incredibly strong support from within several Ministries of the Alberta Government. Together we are building something that is truly world-class, and the opportunity to create this level of learning opportunities for all students will be a highlight of my career."

A mandate within CLC Governance ensures that the role of Director and that of Chair includes representation from both Chinook's Edge School Division and Olds College. The transition in Director therefore moves Olds College President H.J. (Tom) Thompson into the role of CLC Chair and Chinook's Edge Superintendent Jim Gibbons into the position of Vice-Chair.

"I feel that Dot has been working as co-captain of CLC planning from the very beginning and her belief in the Community Learning Campus is complete and genuine," said Thompson. "Dot is a deeply committed leader in education and she is well versed with the breadth and depth of the CLC mandate. She is held in very high regard and the Community Learning Campus is in extraordinarily competent hands."

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