

# Provost Awards for Excellence in Teaching Design and Practice

**Award:** Teaching Design and Practice that Uses Technology to Enhance Student Learning

**Recipient:** Alison Taplay, School and Community Support Worker Program, Faculty of Health and Human Services

In addition to instructing in the School and Community Support Worker Certificate program (SCSW), Alison provides Coordination for the Human Service Programs offered at the Powell River campus including the Disability Studies Diploma, a second year opportunity that builds on the SCSW. She brings 30 years of experience in the community living sector in both BC and Ontario to her teaching practice as well as expertise in K-12 classroom settings.

As a passionate community developer and early innovator she worked in the areas of customized employment and personal networks in Ontario in the 1980s laying the groundwork for some of today's best practises. Alison contributed as a leader to the development of community based services including the group homes and day supports that enabled Ontario and BC to close institutions. She then developed some of the first individualized services in BC.

Her master's degree is in Leadership. She is passionate about social justice and change processes and sees innovation and engagement as essential tools for advancing the well-being of organizations and communities. She is currently conducting research funded by a Vancouver Foundation Grant matched by community organizations and enhanced by VIURAC.

Alison is new to post-secondary instructing but believes there is a unique synergy between her previous work and best practices for effective teaching and learning whether face to face, online or using blended modalities. She sees herself as the curator of an effective and stimulating learning environment that is student centered, inclusive, relational, and process oriented. In this space responsibility for learning is shared, critical thinking is fostered, reflection is valued, and boundaries are eliminated so that new knowledge and ways of being can emerge. She believes that in this space we have the capacity to inspire and be inspired to become not only better at the work we do or hope to do, but better people and better citizens.

