

PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

People for Education announces inaugural “researcher of the month”

People for Education website features outstanding research from across Ontario

TORONTO (February 6, 2011) – In an unprecedented move, People for Education is giving the general public access to top researchers from across Ontario (and, in the future, around the world). Parents will have the opportunity to interact directly with the researcher of the month by submitting questions online. The “[researcher of the month](#)” will respond and both questions and answers will be posted on the [People for Education website](#).

People for Education asked Deans from faculties of Education across Ontario to nominate scholars who were doing particularly important research, and Professor Heather Lotherington of York University is the first researcher to be chosen for the program.

Literacy the topic for this month’s researcher

Professor Lotherington has been experimenting in a classroom where the kids speak sixteen home languages. She’s using cutting edge digital technology to create multimedia, multilingual works of art while children learn to read and communicate in English. By doing her research in the classroom, Professor Lotherington is helping to build bridges between theory and practice – how do teachers take new ideas and make them work, in real classrooms using existing curriculum.

Bringing parents and experts together

“Research in education shapes teaching, learning and how schools operate,” says People for Education’s Executive Director Annie Kidder. “Parents want to know more about the kind of research that makes a difference for their children – but they are not going to go read about it in a dusty journal somewhere. Our interactive website can help connect leading experts with the general public.”

“The researcher of the month feature is a fantastic way of sharing educational research, which is so important for improving education,” says Professor Lotherington. “It is a part of a researcher’s job to share discoveries with everyone – from the kindergarten child who is the focus of learning to the politician who is making decisions on what learning needs to happen.”

For more information, visit the Researcher of the Month page at <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/research/ask-a-researcher/>

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Or visit www.peopleforeducation.ca.