



Award of Spirit of ICED to Chris Knapper

June 2014

STLHE Canada is delighted to nominate Christopher Knapper for the Spirit of ICED award. Chris is a pioneer of educational development as a practitioner, scholar, and consultant in Canada and internationally.

In the late 1960s Chris served the Canadian Association of University Teachers, chairing a committee, which pioneered the idea of the teaching dossier now known worldwide.

In 1973, his work to enhance teaching effectiveness in North America, Europe, and Australasia resulted in one of the first Canadian monographs on university teaching, *If teaching is important: The evaluation of instruction in higher education* (Clarke, Irwin, 1977). He established one of the first educational development centres at the University of Waterloo. Thereafter, Chris and colleagues created the Society for Teaching in Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) where he served as founding president and successfully engineered the famous 3M National Teaching Fellowships.

In 1992 Chris moved to Queen's University as the first director of the Instructional Development Centre and Professor of Psychology and Education teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

In 1993 Chris was one of the group of international developers who met in Oxford to found the International Consortium for Educational Development. He served on the ICED Board for a decade, was a founding editor of the *International Journal for Academic Development* (1995-2003), and convened international symposia at the early ICED conferences, one of which resulted in the monograph *Using Consultants to Improve Teaching* (Jossey-Bass, 1999).

Since retiring Chris has served as an international consultant on post-secondary education, helping to support and establish centres in places as diverse as the West Indies, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Hong Kong, and Palestine. As a senior research fellow at Oxford University (2005-2007), Chris worked with Graham Gibbs on a major international study of leadership of teaching.

From 2011 to 2013 Chris served as founding chair of *Teaching Learning Canada*, STLHE's charitable arm. He is currently senior evaluator for a major educational development project in the West Bank funded by USAID.

Chris is recipient of prestigious awards, including the "Christopher Knapper Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance" established by the Queen's Alma Mater Society (1999), a 3M National Teaching Fellow award (2002), and the AERA McKeachie Career Achievement Award (2004). He was also first recipient of the "Christopher Knapper Lifetime Achievement Award" created by STLHE in 2002.

Chris has written extensively including 26 books and major reports, some 40 book chapters, 120 papers and major conference presentations. He established the STLHE Green Guide monograph series, and served as editor for 7 years. He has also given presentations and workshops on teaching at almost every Canadian university and at institutions on every continent. He was a pioneer in involving students in educational development activities, in particular as agents of change in evidence based practice.

Chris has helped to influenced government policies on university teaching, for example through reports for the Ontario Council on University Affairs, coordinating STLHE's influential submission to the Stuart Smith Commission on Canadian university education (1991).