

# Mathematics Educator of the Year Award 2007: Sandra Unrau

*MCATA's Mathematics Educator of the Year Award seeks to honour those who have made exceptional contributions to the professional development of teachers at the school, local, provincial or national levels and who have demonstrated leadership in encouraging the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics in Alberta.*

*This year the award was presented to Sandra Unrau, a worthy recipient. When I joined MCATA, Sandra had just completed her presidency and become the past president. In our interactions, it was evident that her commitment to mathematics education was strong. Those of you who know her will attest to her dedication to excellence. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting or working with her, below is a brief introduction.*

—Editor



*Sandra Unrau (left) receives the Mathematics Educator of the Year Award from Janis Kristjansson.*

Sandra is a long-time leader in the mathematics education community at the local, municipal, provincial and national level. She is incredibly active in the Calgary area. She was a “Math Their Way” instructor for many years, a math consultant for Calgary Board of Education, and an AISI coordinator for a math project that involved forty schools and their administrators. She also coordinated a Cycle 2 AISI project involving 20 Calgary schools interested in developing the mathematical literacy of students and teachers. She is on the executive of the Calgary ATA local and is a well-respected principal for the Calgary Board of Education.

In addition to her work with local and municipal teachers, she has served many terms as an executive member of MCATA. She has chaired both MCATA and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conferences, including the NCTM Canadian regional conference, hosted in Edmonton in 2003, and the NCTM conference in St Louis, Missouri, and has organized math leadership symposia for MCATA. Sandra listens carefully to others and offers thoughtful responses that at once honour, challenge and provide alternatives to other points of views. These qualities were also very evident in her work with MCATA.

Sandra is passionately dedicated to improving the classroom mathematics experiences of children. She believes deeply that children’s school experiences must respect their independence and intelligence, and she works hard to ensure that the mathematics presented to students is relevant and meaningful. This is evident in her active involvement in the way mathematics is taught in her school: she works closely with teachers both in and out of the classroom. It is also evident in her work on mathematics curriculum documents. She helped author the original Western Canadian Protocol for Mathematics, and she provided extensive and ongoing feedback for the new Western and Northern Canadian Protocol.

It is Sandra’s unique way of being with people and sharing her passion for mathematics that makes her such an influential and inspiring mathematics educator, fully deserving of the title of Mathematics Educator of the Year.