2012 President’s Distinguished Service Awards

2012 Recipients for the Team Award for Innovation

Scientists and Innovators in Schools – University Systems

- Dave Berry
- Jane Browning
- Kelli Fawkes

In the past decade, the University of Victoria’s Scientists and Innovators in the Schools team has reached more than 30,000 students across BC with hands-on chemistry workshops.

The team involves three core members—Kelli Fawkes, Jane Browning and Dave Berry, who have coordinated the UVic effort since 1994—as well as many dozens of graduate and undergraduate students (nearly 100 in the last five years alone).

The team has a vast and phenomenal impact by visiting schools to demonstrate experiments and involve budding scientists from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

UVic provides the “real scientists” for the program, which focuses on providing hands-on interactions with real chemicals and experiments, under close and careful guidance. The program has a decidedly positive impact on the children, but the impact on the “real scientists” is no less profound.

Neil Buford, Chair of the Chemistry Department shares that ‘if there is a core innovation, it has been the recognition that acting as a scientist role model for school-age children is a very positive learning experience for undergraduate and graduate students. Many cite their SIS experience as a highlight of their UVic studies. This is what experiential learning is supposed to achieve and is a direct consequence of the insights, focus and dedication of the SIS UVic Chemistry Team.'