



SASW Distinguished Service Award

-Myrna Pitzel Bazylewski, BSW, MSW, RSW (SK)

Regina, SK

Myrna was born in the Humboldt area and attended schools in Englefeld, Peterson, Clair and Quill Lake, Saskatchewan. In her eleventh grade her father retired from buying grain and moved the family to Saskatoon where she attended grade twelve at Nutana Collegiate. Interested in attending university, she decided on a career in social work. Living in Saskatoon and attending the University of Saskatchewan she double majored in psychology and sociology hoping to cover both the individual and societal knowledge she would need to pursue a social work career in the future.

In 1976 she convocated and moved to Moose Jaw where, after working at a few different human service jobs, she was hired as a Social Welfare Worker with the City of Moose Jaw, Social Services Department in 1978. Myrna married and started a family during the five years she worked for City Social Services. She has a daughter living in Edmonton and her son lives in Moose Jaw. She has fond memories of the times cheques could be cut for clients within the same day and her caseload of single parents kept her busy and active in the community. In 1983, Myrna resigned from her position to raise her children until they were both in school. She was then hired as an Educational Counsellor with Coteau Range Community College counselling adults finishing their high school equivalency. When the community colleges and technical institutes amalgamated in 1988, she then worked for the newly created SIAST Palliser Campus, Adult Basic Education Program until 2001.

During the time she worked at SIAST, Myrna obtained certification in Reality Therapy and Choice Theory in New Orleans, Louisiana through the William Glasser Institute and furthered her training to the Advanced Practicum Instructor Level in Fredericton, New Brunswick. She obtained training in mediation as well as certification in administering the Myers Briggs Type indicator. In 2003, Myrna along with two close friends started a private practice company offering mediation, counselling and training. Clear Choices Consulting was located in Moose Jaw and offered evening and weekend appointments. They developed a premarital workshop incorporating the MBTI and Reality Therapy/ Choice Theory called Staying Together in the 90's. Over 50 couples attended these workshops during the eight years. Inspired by the need for clinical social work within the community, Myrna started pursuing further education to prepare for entry into a master's program. In 2001 she was accepted by the University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work two-year masters program for a clinical specialization in individual, family and

group. Leaving her family and friends to study in Toronto was a life changing decision she has not regretted.

While attending the U of T, Myrna was involved as student representative on the faculty council and developed a practicum template for the MSW field education program as well as participating in orientations for new MSW students. The dream of becoming a social worker was finally fulfilled in 2003 when she convocated. Before returning to Saskatchewan, Myrna's interest in field education was furthered by answering an ad for a Field Education Coordinator in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina. She was hired in the position in May 2003 and has held the position since that time except for a one year sabbatical in 2010.

While working at the university, Myrna became involved with campus and faculty committees as well as research in both field education and interprofessional collaboration. She is most proud of helping many students over the past nine years complete the field education portion of their BSW, learn about how to collaborate with other professionals through P-CiteProjects and the Interprofessional Collaboration in Health, Social Well-Being, Justice and Learning class she developed and taught and supporting the work of the Social Work Student Society.

After registering as a social worker, Myrna soon became involved in the SASW Provincial Council first as a member-at-large in 2004 and then in 2008, she was elected secretary for a two-year term. Her achievements with the SASW include helping to establish the Provincial Mentoring Committee, developing a Field Instructor Training program co-sponsored by the SASW and contributing to the SASW newsletter. Myrna currently is a member of the provincial Mentoring Committee and the Volunteer Committee.

Recently, Myrna has decided to retire from the Faculty of Social Work as of June, 2012 to pursue interests in travelling, fishing, dancing and volunteer work with SASW and the community. She re-married in 2009 and looks forward to enjoying retirement with her husband, adult children and step-children and two step-grand children. She is proud to call herself a social worker and hopes to continue to make a difference.