

April 2014 Newsletter
MENTORING WOMEN IN NEED



iSisters Technology Mentoring

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Eric Calvert, iSisters Technology Instructor, with a student

Welcome to our first issue of *MWIN*, **Mentoring Women in Need**. This semi-annual newsletter is designed to keep you informed about iSisters and the work we do. We will share information and stories regarding our programs, partners, learners, supporters and our volunteers.

We are proud to have graduated over 2,000 women since we began back in 2001. We continue to mentor women in need through the support and collaboration of our generous donors, our dedicated partners, committed Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and a true passion for our mission.

In this first issue, we introduce you to our newest board members and volunteers, and how we've recently become more 'social'.

Our **PROFILE** section features Ms. Roslyn Bern, President of the Leacross Foundation, educator, business woman and philanthropist.

We highlight our newest programs, Technology Mentoring for Young At-Risk Mothers and Career Connections.

We hope you enjoy *MWIN* and reading about iSisters.

Linda Milton Perreault
Executive Director



Mission

Our mission is to provide access to technology, to develop and deliver technology mentoring programs and to enhance career opportunities through technological awareness.

Vision

iSisters Technology Mentoring, a leader in technology learning and development, helps empower women in need to live better lives, create brighter futures and build stronger communities.

Our Values

We are passionate and committed to:
being Learner-Focused, being Community Oriented, Excellence, being Respectful, being Accountable

Board of Directors

Patricia den Boer, Chair
Cathy Lewis, Director, Founder
Colleen Kelley, Director, Treasurer
Beth Nightingale, Director, Communications
Judy Puritt, Director, Volunteer Management
Melynda Layton, Director
Sarah D'Angelo, Director, Human Resources

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Linda Milton Perreault, Executive Director

Mentors

Tim Birch-Jones
Mobile Lab Teacher and eLearning iTeachnology

Fran Harding
Community Liaison, Asset Mapping

Bernarda Jurela & Eric Calvert
Technology Instructors

iSisters welcomes new members

Judy Puritt, *Director, Volunteer Management*



Judy Puritt is excited to be re-joining iSisters. As the part-time Program Manager between 2005-2009 and the lead on-site teacher during that time, she brings extensive front-line experience to the board. She is passionate about learning and teaching, access to education, and enabling opportunities for all learners, and is especially interested in working with marginalized women.

Completing a Master's in Adult Education (focused on "technology-enhanced employability skills training for marginalized women") at St. Francis Xavier University, Judy also has a Bachelor of Education from Ottawa University and a Bachelor of Arts

(political science and German) from the University of Toronto.

Judy has been teaching at Algonquin College since 2001, specializing in business communications.

She is a union steward and long standing advocate for employee rights while also a ready participant in project initiatives examining employee engagement and new approaches to performance evaluation.

Judy is happily married to Edan, has three grown children in various stages of post-secondary studies and young careers, Alicia, Calvin, and Daniel, and loves going for walks with their dog, Baloo.

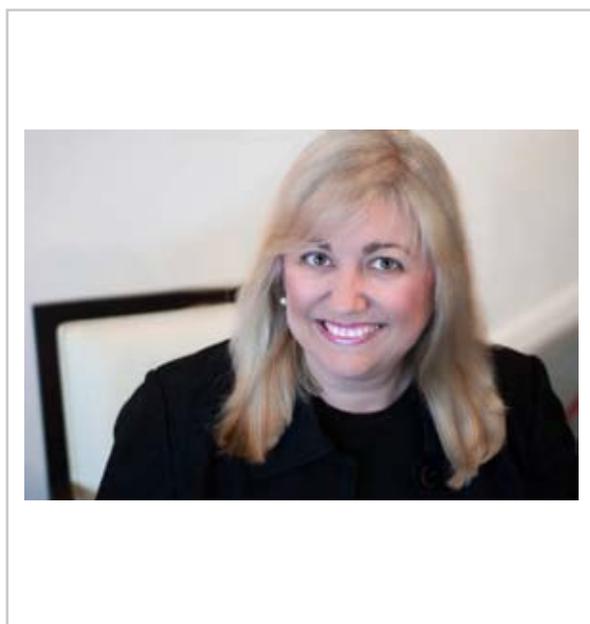
Beth Nightingale, *Director, Communications*

Beth Nightingale recently returned to Ottawa and joined the iSisters Board in late 2013 after a very successful career in Marketing Communications and Media in Houston, Texas. Beth spent six years with Cognos Inc. before an overseas posting took her to Egypt, Turkey and subsequently Texas.

During her time in Texas, Beth owned and published three magazines in the Houston area. She was a respected community leader and served on the Board of Directors for the Katy Area Chamber of

Commerce, Strategic Partner with the Katy Area Economic Development Council, Advisory Board Member for CHRISTUS St. Catherine Hospital, Director for the Katy Heritage Society and dedicated considerable time and sponsorship to other local non-profit organizations. She also achieved both local and state awards including a House Resolution by the State of Texas for community service.

Beth believes strongly in the sustainable business model that iSisters has created to enable women in need.



PROFILE

Roslyn Bern
Leacross Foundation



Inspiring the next generation of women through passion, leadership, and philanthropy

In 2001, Roslyn Bern returned to Montreal to care for her parents and the family business. She took over the Leacross Foundation that her father had started a decade earlier, and changed its philanthropic practise.

The Leacross Foundation's mission is to educate women and children in society, aiming to have an impact on families in Canada, through opportunities which further higher education.

A former teacher for 20 years, Ms. Bern has taught everything, but speaks passionately about her work with high-risk youth in rural and urban locations. Working at Rideau High School and Laurentian High School here in Ottawa, she realized that a traditional classroom setting was not meeting their needs, and that she would have to expand her teaching beyond the classroom.

This is why iSisters' new program, Technology for Young At-Risk Moms at the new Bethany Hope Centre is so close to her heart.

Ms. Bern helped facilitate *In Love & In Danger*, a program to raise awareness about dating violence and abuse in relationships, and with the Leacross Foundation's Students on Ice Arctic and Antarctic Expeditions, has sent more than 40 girls between the ages of 14 and 18 on this profound, hands-on experience to gain the inspiration and motivation needed to help lead to a healthy and sustainable future.

Ms. Bern was a board member of the Canadian Women's Foundation for 6 years, and over the past 20 years has been involved with several causes as an educator, a business woman, and philanthropist.

Ms. Bern lives in Chelsea with her partner and her neighbour's cat, Brownie who visits daily. Her hobbies involve pastel painting, and loves all sports from canoeing to cross country skiing.

Ms. Bern is a champion advocate, funder and friend to iSisters.



Technology for Young At-Risk Moms at Bethany Hope

Technology Mentoring for Young At-Risk Moms is a new program that expands iSisters workshops into the new Bethany Hope Centre for Young Parents. Through this exciting new program, students gain digital literacy skills to enable them to return to and succeed in high school, and prepare for employment. The program builds community capacity to support at risk, young parents.

The Bethany Hope Centre continues nearly a century's tradition of providing service to pregnant and parenting youth and their children. The multi-service centre offers support to young parents 25 and under and their children 6 and under living within the Ottawa region. We are thrilled to be partnering with them.

We began a six-week pilot program at the centre January 14, 2014 with plans for expansion and full implementation in September. We are working in collaboration with the Bethany Hope

Parent Enterprise Program (PEP) where iSisters will mentor youth regarding building a website, writing scripts, shooting a video, budgeting and using social media for their PEP project.

iSisters' goal is to offer young at-risk Moms a full set of digital and media literacy skills, as well as mentoring in new communications technologies at the Bethany Hope Centre, free of charge to them and the partner, providing a familiar and safe environment.

We thank our supporters for making this program possible:

Community Foundation of Ottawa
Leacross Foundation
The Harry P. Ward Foundation
The Johansen-Larsen Foundation

[Click here for a link to a video created by one of our students in the program](#)



Roslyn Bern, President of the Leacross Foundation, speaking with one of our students



Bernarda Jurela, iSisters Technology Instructor, with a student



Mercy Lawlivi, IWSO; Heather McLachlin, President of Cowan Insurance Group; Patricia den Boer, iSisters Chair

Career Connections

Career Connections is a customized program that was specifically developed to connect our learners and graduates with employment opportunities; to expand and mature iSisters' program offering to meet the needs of our learners; and to leverage our existing resources to support the transition to work for our learners.

An invaluable resource for our students, graduates and alumni, we have partnered with Accenture, the City of Ottawa, Dress for Success and Invest Ottawa to offer our students, graduates and alumni customized employment and self-employment learning opportunities, information and resources.

The program has been incredibly successful, with 20 women graduating in 2013! We will be launching a new session with our partners at the Nepean Rideau Osgoode Community Resource Centre (NROCRC) in May, 2014.



New volunteer



iSisters would like to welcome a new volunteer. Elspeth Tory will be assisting with the Program Development Committee and is very excited to be part of the iSisters team.

Elspeth worked for 10 years as a 3D animator and project manager in the video game industry for Microids Canada and Ubisoft Montreal.

She moved to Ottawa in 2009 and has focused on graphic design for non-profits while staying at home with her two young children.

Elspeth holds an Honour Bachelor of Arts (Ethics, Society & Law) from U of T, and a diploma in Computer Animation from ICARI.

iSisters becomes iSocial

iSisters recently expanded its social media presence and can now be found on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn!



As a non-profit organization, iSisters benefits greatly from the wide reach and low cost of various social media outlets. Not only do these platforms increase our public profile, but also allow us to connect with our learners, recent graduates and alumni, as well as our partners, supporters and volunteers on a regular basis.

Visit our [Facebook Page](#) and “like us” to stay up to date with all of our communications. Follow us on Twitter under the handle [@iSistersorg](#). Join our group on [LinkedIn](#).



[click here to visit our website at www.isisters.org](http://www.isisters.org)



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