

Swift Current teacher receives career recognition

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Lowe attended the event on Saturday night (photo courtesy of Cindy Lowe).

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A teacher from Swift Current recently received the recognition of a lifetime after winning an award at the YWCA Regina 2022 Nutrien Women of Distinction Awards on Saturday.

The event celebrated women in southern Saskatchewan that are advocates and leaders in the social scene.

Cindy Lowe, business education teacher at the Swift Current Comprehensive High School, was presented with the Education, Training, and Development Award.

"Calling my name, it just really still feels surreal, because this is my life's work," Lowe explained. "Teaching business is something I chose to pursue 20 years ago and give up a career in the financial industry because I feel like it's so important. So, to be acknowledged and rewarded for that, it's pretty humbling, because I truly love my job."

"Like I tell everybody, I have the best job in the world because, you know, I love what I do, and I see the difference it makes in a kid's life."

Lowe began her career in finance in 1996 when she began working for the Royal Bank.

This led her to the realization that an extensive number of customers were learning about financing for the first time or had financial regrets due to lack of knowledge.

With her newfound insight, Lowe returned to post-secondary to pursue an education degree.

She then began teaching the business program at the college before an available position opened up at the high school.

"I came over here to the high school and taught accounting and then the ministry put out a call to renew some curriculum and I actually got appointed to that curriculum committee," she said. "At that time, Brad Wall had visited my classroom and appointed me."

After discussing the importance of business education with Wall, the development of Financial Literacy 20 and 30 class was started.

Since 2018, finance has been implemented into the curriculum at SCCHS with additional courses being developed along the way revolving around marketing, and entrepreneurship.

Lowe added that she has hopes that one day the elective course will become a mandatory credit.

"I feel very strongly that it's an important life skill that kids need for their life," she said. "In order to manage finances, regardless of their career, regardless of the background, it's kind of what we consider financial literacy, or I do, as a great equalizer between all genders, race, religion, age."

"You know everybody can be entrepreneurial, everybody borrows, and spends, and pays and earns money, and so why don't we teach them the right way to do it here in high school?"