

Patricia Doyle-Baker: 'It is all about people taking action to help improve public health of others'

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Faculty Association recognizes kinesiology prof for her ability to engage people on and off campus

By Leanne Yohemas

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Kinesiology associate professor Patricia Doyle-Baker received the 2016 Community Service Award from The University of Calgary Faculty Association for providing exceptional service to the community, going above and beyond the requirements of the job, and making an outstanding contribution of personal time and effort for the benefit of others. *Photo courtesy Patricia Doyle-Baker*

Although Dr. Patricia Doyle-Baker's three boys are avid skiers in their late teens and early 20s, she spends her weekends on the slopes teaching wee ones how to ski. It's her ability to engage and mobilize others — from the young skiers and her students to those that are the heads of boards — which has earned her the prestigious **Community Service Award** from The University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA).

"As a doctor of public health, I want people to learn and benefit from the work we do as academics. How our research informs practice, is key," says **Doyle-Baker**, associate professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and adjunct associate professor in the Faculty of Environmental Design. "It is all about people taking action to help improve the public health of others."

'Become a force in the community'

Contributing to community is part of Doyle-Baker's DNA. Her father believed that people have to become the fabric of the community if they want to be part of people's lives. Her parents immigrated to Canada from Ireland in 1957 and she was brought up with this value.

"My father taught me this. He did a lot of volunteer work and he impressed that upon us," says Doyle-Baker. "Newcomers to Canada get into the community, work hard in the community and become a force in the community. My dad was certainly like that and so was my husband's father."

Former kinesiology student Jennie Petersen refers to Doyle-Baker as a community connector. Peterson says Doyle-Baker introduces agencies to the evidence that help drive their work; she provides training and best practices for organizations and links students to employment opportunities.

"Tish is a terrific faculty member and I am delighted she has been recognized for her tireless efforts as an educator — in and outside of the classroom. I believe Tish's body of work is significant because it directly links research to the community," says Penny Werthner, PhD, dean of

the Faculty of Kinesiology.

Doyle-Baker graduated from the world-renowned Loma Linda Medical Centre in California, where she received her doctor of public health degree. Prior to this, she obtained her masters in exercise physiology/sport science and a BSc in human performance/biochemistry from the University of Victoria in B.C. Before joining the University of Calgary in 1988, Doyle-Baker was co-owner of a rehabilitation clinic in Victoria and travelled extensively with national teams as a sport scientist and certified exercise physiologist. Most recently she has acted as the medical liaison for the Western Summer Games and the Canadian Summer Games.

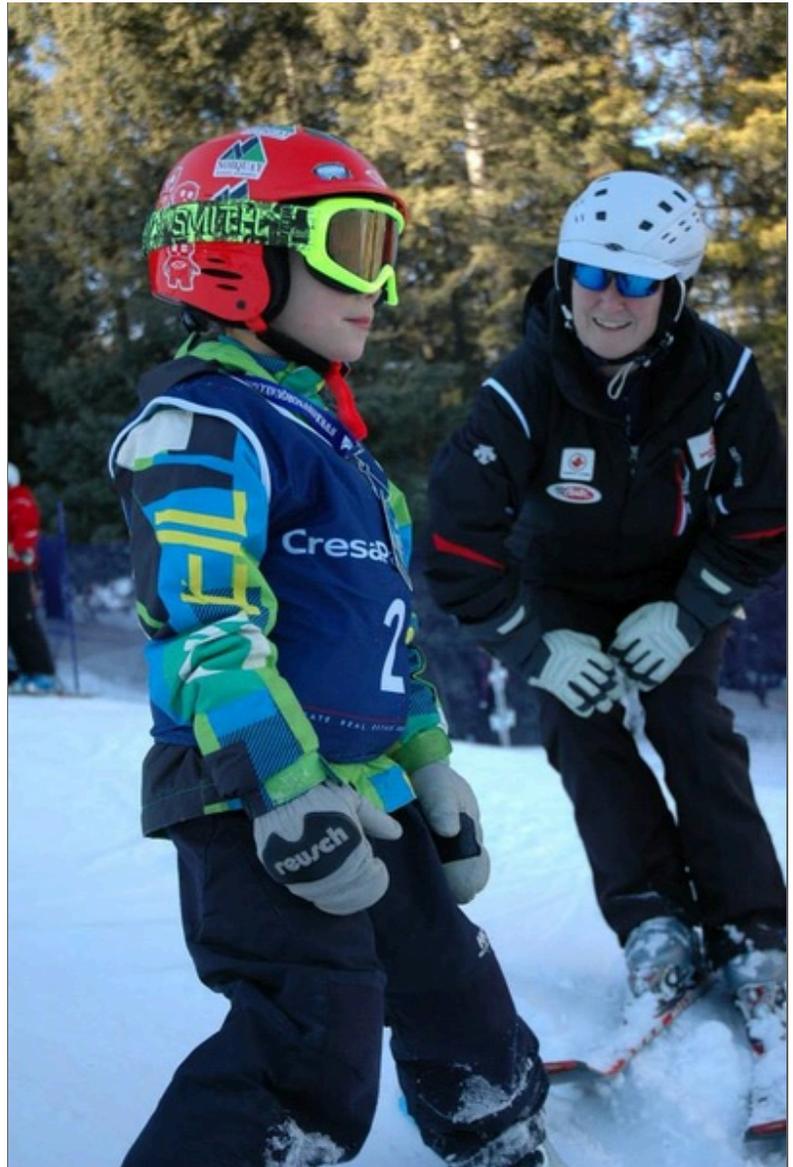
Personalizing health for students

As a professor, Doyle-Baker admits that she puts students through their paces and, oftentimes, it's only years later, that they understand and deeply appreciate the relevance of her assignments.

"She taught me how to think differently — she personalized my health," says Petersen, now a manager of wellness programs at the Calgary YMCA.

"She hammered us on risk factors like our blood lipid levels and even more importantly, hammered us about what those indicators were saying about our own health, and that was a great thing," adds Petersen when recalling an unusual assignment that involved students examining their own blood and compiling a report that took many hours to complete and assessed many health indicators, including genetic factors for disease.

Her lessons and philosophy must have resonated because she is still in contact with many former students who have careers in fitness and health. At a recent conference, 90 of the 250 participants were taught by Doyle-Baker.



Dr. Doyle-Baker spends many weekends on the slopes teaching children to ski.
Photo courtesy Patricia Doyle-Baker



In the classroom, Doyle-Baker's lessons and philosophy have resonated with countless students, many of whom stay in contact with her after graduating.
Photo by Riley Brandt, University of Calgary

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