



EDPY 597 Curriculum Studies in the Health Sciences

Dr. Bob Ritter entered teaching with a formal academic background in physiology and biochemistry. In 1973, Dr. Ritter began teaching science 7-9. He spent the next 23 years teaching high school biology and wrote over 30 textbooks and teacher resources for biology and general science. His textbooks have been used by every provinces in Canada as a primary resource for teachers and students. In 1995, Dr. Ritter entered a second phase of his career in school administration, first as a high school principal and later as a senior administrator for Edmonton Catholic Schools. As a teacher and administrator he volunteered as a basketball and swimming coach and served the city of Edmonton as a co-chair for the “Edmonton Drug Strategy” with Mayors Smith and Mandel.

In 2007, Dr. Ritter began a third phase of his career as director for the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education at the University of Alberta. His favorite research projects include: assisting school in using student-created video-games to promote computational thinking and problem solving skills, connecting teachers and Alberta Innovates Sciences Centres scientists in creating lessons for students that brought leading-edge research into science classrooms, and the development of workshops for nanotechnology that encouraged student to conduct research projects using a scanning electron microscope and gas chromatograph. Dr. Ritter has conducted various workshops to promote: problem-based learning, active learning strategies, and self-directed learning both nationally and internationally.