

Dean's teaching career has grown and developed over the past twenty years. He was fortunate to get a teaching job right out of the University of Regina. He taught at an elementary school as the school's computer itinerant which turned out to be a forecast of things to come. For two years, he was working with K- 8 students teaching them basic computer skills, as well as a few electives such as Drama and Physical Education. It became a rewarding and beneficial start to beginning his career.

His next position was teaching high school which he trained for with a Major in Social Studies and a Minor in Math, he has also received a BA in History from the University of Regina. Although he was trained and was able to teach a few classes in his areas of study, he was asked to take on other subject areas such as Science, Physical Education, Christian Ethics, Computer Science, Futures / Computers and a class that would change his career dramatically, Information Processing. The use of the internet was a relatively new resource when Dean began teaching, however it was one in which Dean saw great potential.

He utilized this tool from the onset with his classes in the form of webquests, research projects, online educational games, building his own website with information and assignments.

His students are appreciative of his cutting edge approach and lessons. People at the board office for Regina Catholic Schools took notice and he was soon leading workshops on the infusion of the internet in a variety of subject areas for staff in the

division. He even did a workshop at an event for teachers in all three school divisions in our area on the use of the internet very early in his career. He knew he was onto something special and there was no turning back.

As is the case with Dean, he is always ready for a new challenge and has a “can do attitude.” So when the Information Technology teacher went on maternity leave, Dean was asked to step in and teach this course. I have heard Dean say a few times ‘A little bit of technology knowledge can be a dangerous thing.’ He took on this class and was not satisfied with just going through the motions and follow the course; soon Dean was breathing new life into an outdated course by introducing some basic web design and graphic design concepts. Again, Dean’s work was noticed by people at the board office and he was asked to ‘try something new’. He was asked to be the first teacher in our division to teach a new course in our province called Communication Production Technology. Dean’s reply to this request was “when can we get started.” Yet another example of Dean’s willingness to learn and wanting to provide new opportunities to students.

Communication Production Technology is a course that promotes industry standard work in the areas of web design, graphic design, video production, audio production and an understanding of topics such as pre and post production and copyright. Dean did not have formal training in any of these areas but he took it upon himself, as he often does, to learn with his students. The class quickly grew, becoming one of the more sought out elective classes at Archbishop M.C. O’Neill Catholic High School. Dean was

asked to facilitate a unique and extraordinary experience for students; a local private media school, New Media Campus, saw an opportunity to align their first year multimedia course with the Province's Communication Production Technology course to provide a distinctive offering. Students that signed up for this course took an advanced four credit class that would have cost them \$12,000.00 at the New Media Campus. Dean was called on to be the instructor of the class that was offered to students from all four high schools in the school division and housed at O'Neill. The class was well received and many students were getting this unique post-secondary experience in high school and saving a lot of money. Unfortunately, the campus decided to pull out of Regina, thus halting the program. Dean chose to continue with a similar course that provided students with many challenging assignments in this field. Developing quite a passion for this course, Dean loves the creativity, collaboration and 'coolness' that it offers.

Dean's involvement with Communication Production Technology has made him very aware of the importance in creating and maintaining an effective eportfolio. His students would create, add to, and reflect upon their work using their portfolios. Dean understands that sometimes a resume just isn't enough and to get that job you need to show them 'what you got'. Students' eportfolios became a sophisticated dossier of their works with reflective pieces to show growth, creativity, and understanding. It's an area he still strives to improve upon today and instill the in minds of his students.

Once more, the school division took notice of Dean's skill set, attitude and ability to help people feel comfortable with technology. He was shoulder tapped to work at the board office as a Technology Coach. In this position, Dean was responsible in assisting students from all 27 schools, fellow staff and people at the school board office with skill development, integration of technology in the classroom and beyond. The phrase 'Mr. V is coming for a visit.' brought excitement from staff and students throughout. Dean relished in this role, his creative juices were flowing in projects that he helped conceive and design. Another one of his frequent phrases is 'That sounds great, maybe we can try this and that as well, wouldn't that be cool.' Dean's expertise and enthusiasm made him a well sought after resource.

This position also allowed Dean to be a pioneer with the creation and integration of the School Division's student film festival, Cinemania. Student video and animation work from all over the is showcased and adjudicated by industry leaders, all culminating in an event where students became stars for a night as their work is up on the IMAX screen. Dean's made many connections with people in the industry and has organized a variety of film and audio workshops for teachers and students. It has become an ongoing tradition that he continue at O'Neill and is an anticipated event.

During his tenure as Technology Coach, a position as Technology Consultant came up; Dean was selected to this position out of a strong list of candidates. In this role, he had the added responsibilities of creating reports and providing feedback on a variety of teaching and technical issues in the division. He was a part of the team that embarked on a few technology refresh initiatives in our division. His expertise was called upon to

create and provide feedback on a number of policies that our school division uses in the area of technology such as the division Acceptable User Policy. He was in charge of many professional development opportunities and training as well. He still found ways to connect with students and would make classroom visits as much as possible.

At this time Dean was able to be a part of another innovative project. He helped prepare and supervise an ejournalism team that took students to various events in and outside of Saskatchewan. At these events students would use real life technical, reporting, and team skills to create web sites, video reports, photographs and newsletters in French and English for that event. One young man even got an opportunity to interview then Premier of Saskatchewan, Lorne Calvert. Dean still tries to do as many of these authentic learning experiences today with his classes at O'Neill, with one of his favourites being the Skills Canada Cardboard Boat Races.

Another opportunity afforded to Dean was to be a team member in the development of a program called Live ART, which was a special art related broadcast that brought classes from all areas of Saskatchewan together to learn and talk about art. This satellite delivered program featured Saskatchewan artist Heather Cline who would deliver a variety of art lessons via the program and Moodle. Dean would help with the production and setup of the broadcast room; he would 'show students the ropes', be a guide and evaluate student broadcast performance. It was a unique look at satellite and distance education.

At the end of his term as consultant, Dean found himself being called back to the classroom and the familiar hallowed halls of Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School; for Dean, it was like coming home. Upon his return he was 'making plans'; he saw the opportunity to teach what he majored in, Social Studies, only the plan had a twist. Furthering his request for Social Studies classes, he was granted to teach them in a computer lab. Students were blogging, making wikis, using Google docs, making videos, creating graphics and more to help them create and understand their knowledge of the curriculum. Dean was 'pumped', staff and students took notice. Students were and are reaching high levels of success in his classes while developing their 21st Century skills. I have heard many students say 'You are lucky to be in his classes or 'I wish I was in Mr. V's class.' Dean's been able to teach Communication Production Technology, continuously bringing new ideas and experiences to the course which once again has peaked student interest. With Dean's many connections, our school was selected to produce and host programs on CBC Radio and Television as part of CBCs Student News Day. He entered students' work in a variety of contests to get their work 'out there' and this has led to students getting some great recognition and winning some of the contests along the way. Another example of how Dean has enhanced the experience in Communication Media, would be the introduction of Adobe Certification where students are able to take industry standard tests on these programs and graduate with credentials that many professionals didn't even have on their resumes. You think he'd be content to work with this for a while.

A few years ago, the Regina Catholic School board offered grant monies to teachers that would like to pursue some innovative projects. Yet again, Dean stepped up to the plate. He submitted a proposal as part of a group project entitled 'Students Learn Best In the 21st Century'. He decided to focus on the use of iPads in the classroom. Over the course of three years, Dean has 30 iPads that he used and infused into his social, math and Communication Media classes. He collected data and will be produced a report on the devices' effectiveness as a learning tool. His enthusiasm is spreading to the students he works with and loves. Not only is he focusing delivering the curriculum in new engaging ways but, teaching important digital citizenship skills. He is to 'flipped' many of his grade 9 math class by producing videos on topics that students can access from anywhere in attempt to have his students look at the content beforehand and do more work in the classroom. Implementing this innovative practise earned him an innovative teaching award from the Saskatchewan Math Teachers' Association. It's a method he sees tremendous potential in and feels he will be able to meet his students' needs more effectively.

Dean is currently an Education Leader at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School in the Math / Science Area. He loves the opportunity to be a part of the leadership team. He has many added responsibilities and has created needed committees such as Bring Your Own Device and School Communication. He believes in servant leadership and models and researches best practice. He has been instrumental in coordinating the school's communication through digital signage boards, website, and social media. His passion for the students and staff of O'Neill is unwavering and undeniable.

In the classroom, Dean continues to go that 'extra mile'. Currently his assignment has him teaching math classes. Dean has enjoyed this immensely and continues to look for new ways to engage his students. He has implemented Genius Hour and Hour of Code opportunities for his students in order to heighten student interest. He enjoys challenging students with Three Act Math Plays, Math Apps, and Minecraft. He applied for and was accepted into a division Connected Educator initiative. This has allowed him to offer a 1 to 1 opportunity for his students. With this opportunity he has examined the SAMR and TPACK models attempting to redefine and provide students with empowering and engaging learning opportunities. He loves the level of grit and rigor in his classroom and fosters a growth mindset.

Dean definitely does not see teaching as just a job, he is passionate about bringing change, providing new innovative ways to learn and explore for staff and students. This continues to be extremely evident since the onset of his career.

Dean has been an active extra-curricular participant throughout his teaching career. He has coached football (for 13 years, three years as head coach), badminton, baseball, basketball, hockey, and even track during his tenure. Always bringing a positive attitude and getting excited about seeing student athletes becoming the best they can be. He has also been involved in various clubs such as the assembly committee and technology club (that involves robotics and a province wide competition). Dean has also made his presence felt in the community by coaching minor football and being

active in his church. He has been a part of the school leadership team and the school's action research team looking into the areas of school day structure and Bring Your Own Technology policies. He has been the technology 'go to guy' wherever he has been and was apt at the role of school technology representative for many years of his career. He has been involved in Canadian Heritage fairs in the past in the roles of workshop presenter, judge and chaperone. One very memorable and fun event Dean was involved in was the school's first and only CBC Smart Ask Team, which competed against schools from all over Canada in Toronto back in 2003. As one can tell, Dean loves to be involved and enjoys being a positive part of the lives of people around him. It is easy to see that he is a team player and is comfortable in a variety of roles.

With all his work in the classroom, Dean is no stranger to sharing his talents and expertise with others. He is always willing to share his knowledge and resources with anybody and everybody. Dean has provided numerous workshops on the use of technology; he has done this for his school, the school division and the province. He has provided workshops for the Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit in the areas of Technology Integration and SMART Board Integration. He was presented a variety of workshops at the annual Saskatchewan iT Summit in Saskatoon. His passion and expertise also landed him a position on the provincial steering committee for the updated Communication Media curriculum. He enjoyed the opportunity to help develop a curriculum that would be effective for both teachers and students. Our school division looks to Dean for his input on a variety of technology and curriculum issues with his involvement in our SMART Teachers Program, Tablet Device Study, Grade Nine Math

Common Assessment Advisory Group, Grade Nine Math First Nation Math Unit Development Team, Technology Advisory Group to name a few. He was also part of the team that hosted the first ever RCSD edCamp and champions this movement in professional development. He was also commissioned to present on 'Using Minecraft and Coding in the Math Classroom' at a STEMfest in St. John's, Newfoundland recently. Dean is always willing to learn and share through his Personal Learning Network, using Twitter and LinkedIn to connect with educators around the globe. Dean has done some lecturing to pre-service teachers at the University of Regina on the integration of technology into the classroom. He has taken on many pre-interns in his classroom and is a part of a special TIFA research project which involved video analysis of teaching with his intern. He has really enjoyed working with aspiring educators and sees this type of work as something he would like to pursue in the future. For now, he is more than happy to be a part of the family here at O'Neill and work with the students and staff here.

Dean's primary focus is the classroom, as a result of his passion for the classroom and love of his students; he has accomplished many career goals and has received significant recognition for his work. He has gone back to school and obtained a diploma in Educational Technology from the University of Cape Breton to help him better understand how technology can be used in education and has plans on pursuing his masters in this area as well. It has provided him with new skills and abilities to prepare students for the 21st Century. Dean's skills and abilities have been recognized by many organizations. In 2016, he was honoured to be accepted as a Microsoft Innovative

Educator and was able to participate in Microsoft's Educator Exchange in Budapest (Hungary). He has been an Apple Distinguished Educator since 2008 and has been selected to attend many of their teacher institute across Canada and around the world including stops in Cork (Ireland), Austin, Texas and San Diego, California. He has become a certified SMART trainer and has been recognized as a SMART Exemplary Educator. Dean was also selected to attend the SMART Exemplary Educator Summit in Calgary, Alberta where he received over 30 hours of world class professional development from the people at SMART. In 2010, he became a Google Certified Teacher and went to Google Headquarters in London, England to obtain certification. He is an Adobe Certified proctor and has received his certification in Photoshop, Dreamweaver and Flash. He went to Orlando, Florida and Palm Springs, California to attend to prestigious educational technology conferences (FECT and CUE respectively) where he gathered more knowledge about a variety of topics and grew his professional learning network. In the fall of 2011, Dean attended the Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy held in Ottawa. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity where he learned valuable information and gained firsthand experience about how our wonderful country is governed. He also obtained access to many materials and content that he has used in his classroom.

Dean has been voted the "Best Teacher in Regina" by readers of a local independent newspaper (The Prairie Dog Magazine) for three consecutive years. He has been nominated for an Arbos Award recognizing teaching excellence in Saskatchewan. He was also selected as a Distinguished Employee in the area of Curriculum by Regina Catholic Schools. Although Dean is very humbled by these achievements, they

deservedly reflect the work he is doing in the classroom and beyond. He was extremely honoured to be chosen for the Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement in 2010-2011.

Dean loves what he does. The essence of his passion and dedication lies within each student he works with. He continually builds positive relationships with his students and they are at the core of all he does. Dean strives to become a better educator so he can in turn bring it back to the classroom to those he humbly serves. He does this all with a smile on his face and heart full of compassion and empathy. Teaching is definitely not just a job; it is part of his mind, body and soul and he feels blessed and fortunate for the wonderful journey he has been on. And he is excited where the journey may take him next.

To Learn More About Dean

Check out his Twitter Feed - @vendi55

Check out his blog and eportfolio – deanvendramin.weebly.com