**Teacher of the Year, Honor Award Winner Information for SHAPE SD:**

**Name of Teacher of the Year, Honor Award Winner: Patty Jorgenson**

**Level as Teacher of the Year or Honor Award Winner: K-12 Health Educator of the Year (High School teacher)**

**Please complete the questions below and return to** [**Tracy.Nelson@sdstate.edu**](mailto:Tracy.Nelson@sdstate.edu) **for our website.**

1. **What has being named a SHAPE SD (Health) Physical Education Teacher of the Year meant to you? It is an honor to be recognized by my peers and an organization that I highly respect. To have others see your curriculum and teaching style as worthy of recognition is both humbling and gratifying.**

#### ****What gives you the greatest joy in teaching? One of my greatest joys of teaching is when students have attained the “light bulb” moment - when the learning takes place. The skill is attained, the importance of the knowledge you are trying to convey is recognized as relevant to them and the world around them, and their ability to put that knowledge to work in their own lives is successful.****

#### ****What is the biggest challenge or frustration you experience as a physical education teacher? The biggest frustration would simply be time. The time to cover and accomplish everything you would like to in a semester; the time to try one more way to get through to the student who is struggling; and the time to simply sort through the wealth of information available to us in today’s world and apply it to the classroom.****

#### ****How do you see the future of physical education in South Dakota? I envision an environment that will be focused on lifetime activities at the high school level, and will incorporate technology into student progress records in more personal and achievement based ways.****

#### ****If there is any bit of advice you would give to a 1st or 2nd year physical education teacher what would it be? Be open to trying a variety of techniques in the teaching world, and take risks. Don’t become stagnant in your comfort zone. Try the project or lesson plan that you may not be sure will work. Be willing to have students evaluate you at the end of the semester; they will surprise you with the assessments and give you valuable feedback on the classroom learning environment, and curriculum covered. And the positive feedback is always nice to receive, ☺ .****