

21 February 2020

## Prof Elsa Mentz receives the Malcolm Knowles Self-Directed Learning Award

Prof Elsa Mentz was the recipient of the highest award bestowed upon scholars working in the field of self-directed learning, namely the prestigious Malcolm Knowles Award. Malcolm Knowles is considered the father of self-directed learning, and this award, annually presented to exceptional scholars by the International Society for Self-Directed Learning, honours not only the legacy of the late Knowles, but also acknowledges exceptional research in SDL. With this award, which was bestowed on her at a

prestigious function in Cocoa Beach on Thursday, 6 February 2020, Elsa now joins the international self-directed learning hall of fame, and rubs shoulders with giants like the Guglielminos, Brockett, Hiemstra and Candy.

To read more about Prof Mentz's award, please click on the link below:

<https://www.sdlglobal.com/award-winners>



Prof Christo Van der Westhuizen, Prof Elsa Mentz, Dr Ralph Brockett, Mrs Anita Lubbe, Prof Josef De Beer



Prof Christo Van der Westhuizen, Prof Josef De Beer, Dr Lucy Guglielmino, Mrs Anita Lubbe, Prof Elsa Mentz

Prof Elsa Mentz het die hoogste toekenning ontvang wat toegeken word aan vakkundiges wat op die gebied van selfgerigte leer werk, naamlik die gesogte Malcolm Knowles-toekenning. Malcolm Knowles word as die vader van selfgerigte leer beskou, en hierdie toekenning, wat jaarliks deur die internasionale vereniging vir selfgerigte leer aan buitengewone vakkundiges toegeken word, huldig nie net die nalatenskap van wyle Knowles nie, maar gee ook erkenning aan buitengewone navorsing in SDL. Met hierdie toekenning, wat op Donderdag

6 Februarie 2020 tydens 'n luisterryke funksie in Cocoa Beach aan haar toegeken is, is Elsa nou deel van die internasionale eregalerie vir selfgerigte leer, en gaan om met groot name soos die Guglielmino's, Brockett, Hiemstra en Candy.

Klik op die skakel hieronder om meer oor die toekenning aan Prof Mentz te lees:

<https://www.sdlglobal.com/award-winners>

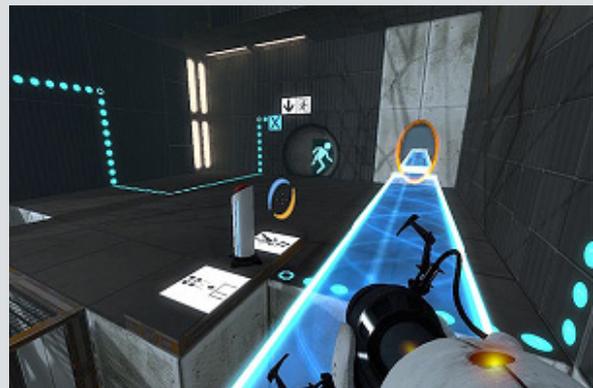
## Dr Byron Bunt's doctoral research findings show that the video game Portal increases the cognitive ability of students

The PhD study of Dr Bunt, a history lecturer at the Vaal Triangle Campus in the School of Commerce and Social Studies in Education (SCSSE), attracts wide interest. On February 16, an article was published in Rapport, followed by a talk on Pretoria FM radio. Dr Bunt's PhD study focused on the potential benefits of a puzzle video game as a cognitive enrichment programme for the development of critical thinking among first-year BEd students. To follow are excerpts taken from the original article and translated into English.

Portal is a shooting game where you use a portal gun to move between portals. In the process, the player must also solve several puzzles. The study used eight first-year students in Education who completed the standardised Watson Glaser Critical Thinking appraisal test. This test measures the participants in five main areas, namely conclusions, assumptions, deductions, interpretations, and the evaluation of reasoning. The study concluded that the improved skills risk was lost if the participants stopped playing the game.

Bunt is an advocate of a self-directed blended-learning approach, and believes that games are an important tool that can be used in teaching and learning.

Source: Rapport, 16 February 2020.



Dr Bunt, 'n geskiedenisdosent aan die Vaaldriehoekcampus in die Skool vir Besigheidstudies en Sosiale Studies in Onderwys, se PhD-studie lok wye belangstelling. Daar is op 16 Februarie 'n artikel daaroor in Rapport gepubliseer, waarna dr Bunt ook 'n praatjie op Pretoria FM radio daaroor gelever het. Dr Bunt se studie het gefokus op die potensieële voordele van 'n raaisel-videospeletjie as 'n kognitiewe verrykingsprogram vir die ontwikkeling van kritiese denke onder eerstejaar-BEd-studente. Hier volg uittreksels uit die oorspronklike artikel.

Volgens Bunt, wat van vierjarige ouderdom gek was oor videospeletjies, is Portal 'n skietspeletjie waar jy 'n portal-geweer gebruik om tussen poorte te beweeg. Terwyl hy daarmee besig is, moet die speler ook verskeie raaisels oplos. Vir sy navorsing het hy agt eerstejaar-onderwysstudente die gestandaardiseerde Watson Glaser Critical Thinking toets laat aflê. Hy het verder bevind dat die deelnemers (spelers) se kognitiewe vaardighede in verhouding tot die vlak van hulle blootstelling toeneem, en dat hulle waarskynlik die verbeterde vaardighede sal verloor indien hulle sou ophou om die speletjie te speel.

Bunt is 'n voorstander van vervlegte leer, en hy glo dat speletjies 'n belangrike instrument is wat in onderrig en leer gebruik kan word.

Bron: Rapport, 16 Februarie 2020