



## Senior Research Award Winner

The winner of the SIG's first Senior Research Award is Dr. Bonny Norton, Professor at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Two scholars supplied letters that supported Dr. Norton's nomination. One mentioned her rapid promotion through the professorial ranks, no doubt due in part to her record of over 100 publications and 200 invited talks. Recognition of Dr. Norton's impressive research began with her ground breaking work on identity, investment, and language learning evolving from her dissertation which appeared in a 1995, TESOL Quarterly article and later in a book-length monograph, *Identity and Language Learning*, published by Longman in 2000. One scholar commented, "Using poststructuralist theory and her research on a group of immigrant women in Canada, she showed how the construction of identity as multiple, conflictual and changing was key to an understanding of language learners' trajectories."

Dr. Norton's most recent publication is a 2010 co-edited volume, *Language and HIV/AIDS* and her new book series on *Critical Language and Literacy Studies*, published by *Multilingual Matters*. Consequently her numerous publications developed "a new paradigm of language learning research around conceptions of imagined identities, imagined communities, and critical language pedagogies." According to one scholar, "Bonny Norton is a scholar of the highest caliber who has changed the face of second language research."

She has won numerous awards most recently such as honorary appointments at King's College in London and her alma mater, the University of Witswatersrand in Johannesburg, and at UBC, Distinguished University Scholar and the Killam Research Prize. Her letters of support report that Dr. Norton has also earned more than 15 funding awards from entities including the Hampton Research Endowment Fund, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Also no less important in our field is the mentoring of new scholars from around the world. According to one letter, "Through her tireless industry and unwavering brilliance, Professor Norton has inspired and guided countless second language education researchers and teachers around the globe, in their scholarship, practice, and most importantly, the quest for a more socially just world."

Receiving these testimonial letters, the committee agreed that Dr. Norton's accomplishments are deserving of the Second Language SIG's Senior Researcher Award. Join us in congratulating her on this award!

### A word from our winner- Bonny Norton

It came as a great honor and delight to be awarded the "Second Language Leadership through Research Award" (senior category) for 2010. The establishment of this award brings great recognition not only to those who are the recipients of this important award, but to those who worked with energy, commitment, and vision to establish an important institutional structure. The field of Second Language Research is greatly enhanced by the activities of the AERA Second Language Research SIG, and I am humbled by recognition from colleagues for whom I have the greatest respect. Of course, I am also very thankful that these same colleagues enjoy a great party, and I look forward to some serious celebrating in Vancouver in 2012! My warmest regards from Buenos Aires, where my Argentinean colleagues are teaching me that it takes a lot more than two to tango!