

## A LIFELONG PASSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING: NORINE WARK

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### ABSTRACT

Dr. Norine Wark is an award-winning scholar, educator, researcher, and writer in the field of open, digital, and distance education. Coauthor (with Dr. Susan Bainbridge) of the groundbreaking *Encyclopedia of Female Pioneers in Online Learning*, as well as numerous other academic publications, she is a recipient of the prestigious Governor General of Canada Gold Medal Award for Academic Excellence (the highest award for a graduate student in Canada).

Distance learning is more than an academic focus for Dr. Wark: it is a lifelong passion and an integral part of her life since the earliest days of her childhood. As a learner, teacher, researcher, mentor, and scholar, Dr. Wark's commitment to excellence in open, digital, and distance education is unparalleled.

This biographical paper explores Dr. Wark's life and career, with a focus on her relationship to distance learning and her contributions to the field. It briefly reviews her early and later childhood, the foundations of her teaching career, and explores her graduate and postgraduate work in the field of open, digital, and distance education.

**Keywords:** Women researchers, distance education, educational technology, online learning, digital education, ODDE, Norine Wark