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The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators
Winter 2015

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Mike Austin Award 2015

Theresa Cameron FISTC is the recipient of the award in recognition of her work on the ISTC Council.


Theresa Cameron became a member of Council shortly after joining the ISTC as a Member. She served as International Lead and TCeurope representative from 2006-2013, and as President of INTECOM (the international umbrella for technical communications) from 2008-2010. She has worked tirelessly to promote the ISTC internationally and to make sure our voice is heard. She continues to speak at conferences and write articles relevant to the technical communication industry.

In the paragraphs below Theresa shares her acceptance speech with Communicator readers.

I've always believed in 'giving back' so when applications for International Representative were announced on the discussion list, I jumped at the chance. What clinched it for me? German! I would be able to read the magazines from our partner association in Germany and pass on the news.

Volunteering, I've found, is full of surprises. Not only can you use seemingly irrelevant skills, you also hone and expand existing ones. Marian Newell, Editor of *Communicator* at the time, might have raised an eyebrow when I asked if I could submit an article about a Babylonian clay tablet written in cuneiform, but she published it.

Yet what I value most from my time on Council is a practising a skill that I believe technical communication needs most. Our profession is not only about writing, managing and tools. It requires *leadership*. Most of us who arrive on Council have not had much opportunity to lead but together we work to create a vision and build a future for our members and our profession.

I was thrilled — and incredulous — when I heard that I was to receive the Mike Austin Award. Anything I achieved is because of the support and trust that the Council gave me. So in accepting this award with heartfelt thanks, I ask you also to please honour the Council for all that it does for us and, if you have a chance to volunteer, go for it! 

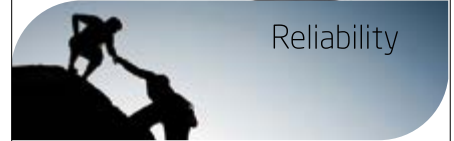
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Theresa Cameron (right) accepting the Mike Austin Award from Alison Peck, ISTC President, at TCUK 2015.



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