



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
ieec BREAKFAST
NOVEMBER 24, 2010



Hamilton Excellence in Teaching
Award Recipients
2010



Hamilton Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients

Dan Sheeler: Ancaster High School



Dan Sheeler has acted as the chair of the Ancaster SHSM group since its inception. He is an exemplary teacher, who has taken on additional duties to encourage students to look for their pathway and achieve their dreams. Dan has worked to develop partnerships with both employers at the Airport and Mohawk College. Dan encourages students and staff to work to the best of their abilities at all times.

Steve Baker: Barton Secondary School



Steve Baker's joy of teaching is infectious. He can effortlessly teach a variety of subjects, coach boys and girls basketball teams, run lunch-time intramural basketball, soccer and floor hockey ... and still have time to lend a hand to a student or staff member when they are in need. Remarkably, he still has time to raise 3 young kids and run the Dundas Dynamo basketball program in the evenings.

Cathy Roberto: Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School



As an SHSM teacher, Cathy Roberto's focus is to prepare students to make the transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace. She encourages students to explore, refine and remain flexible about their career goals. Cathy is an exceptional teacher, who makes a tremendous difference on a daily basis in the lives of her students.

Marcie Brennan: Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School



Marcie is an exemplary Catholic educator and leader. She works with students that have difficulty in their academics, social development and integration in the classroom. Marcie allows the students, through her mentorship, the opportunity to develop their skills and be successful in their school life. She has been instrumental in working with students, with different academic abilities in order to empower them.

Claudia Defend-Ionico: Cardinal Newman Catholic School



Claudia Defend-Ionico drew students into Cooperative Education, who truly needed the opportunity to take the skills that they learned in the classroom and utilize them in a workplace setting. She has been known to include at-risk students in Co-op and problem solved around the complex students and really gave students, who do not necessarily thrive in the classroom something to look forward to in their day.

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Patricia Jordan: Cathedral High School



Patricia Jordan models positive leadership that values all contributions. She teaches Food and Nutrition classes and oversees the Cathedral Student Enterprises and empowers students so that they may know their strength. Cathedral's breakfast program is possible through the commitment of teachers such as Patricia Jordan. Patricia also mentors young basketball players and has travelled using her own funds to assist the people of Haiti.

Sylvia Paduano: Delta Secondary School



Sylvia Paduano has operated Delta's in-house kitchen and foods program, holding the philosophy of continuous intake of students. She teaches skills students will have with them forever in their working and social lives. Sylvia supports the Breakfast Programs at two elementary schools and ensures Delta's holiday luncheon is served. Daily she receives students long-since graduated back into the learning environment that share stories about how she has impacted their lives.

Nancy Sullivan: Hill Park Secondary School



Nancy is a fantastic mentor for new and experienced teachers alike as her leadership style is collaborative and supportive. She has been instrumental in starting Hill Park's Justice, Community Safety, and Emergency Service SHSM. Nancy is an amazing educator whose role does not stop in the classroom as she is constantly working on creating an inclusive school culture. Nancy also got Hill Park involved in a Science Mentorship Program with McMaster University.

Danielle Hourigan: Hillfield Strathallan College



As Assistant Principal of the Montessori School, School Life Coordinator, Director of Summer Camps and as an HSC alumna, Danielle Hourigan embodies Hillfield's mission in everything that she does. Her own love of learning and belief in the "child who is yet to come" inspire her to reach each child. She has coached basketball teams for younger students, produced multiple drama productions and successfully coordinated the United Way employee campaign at the College.

Charles Honey: Mohawk College



Charles has developed and taught successful modules in the heating and cooling industry and because of Charles' work, Mohawk College was accredited in 1996 as a provincial test centre. However, it is Charles' dedication to people that truly makes him a great educator. Charles has been responsible for the employment success of graduates by leveraging his professional network to effectively match students to employers in the field.

Hamilton Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients

Michelle Kennedy: Mountain Secondary School



Michelle is the Guidance Counsellor, the Chair of the Pathways Team and the Academic Head at Mountain Secondary. In this role, she is responsible for many initiatives that support the improvement of student and teacher performance. She works tirelessly to give students direction and encourages them to work to the best of their ability. Her door is "always open" to hear the students' problems or to advise them on coping strategies for any of the issues they may be experiencing.

Michael Murray: Orchard Park Secondary School



Mike Murray is a positive and inspiring teacher who passes on his enthusiasm to the students he teaches and the teams he coaches. He is also a mentor to Orchard Park's aspiring leaders through his work with student council. Each fall he organizes a leadership camp for students in grade 9 and 10 in order to empower these young people to work with others, solve problems, and become caring members of their community.

Dr. Douglas Loney: Redeemer University College



Dr. Loney has served Redeemer with distinction in a number of administrative positions, including serving as Dean of the Arts Division, heading the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Director of Research and Faculty Development. Dr. Loney's passion, however, is in teaching. At the heart of his success as an English instructor is his love of the English language and his ability to convey this love to his students.

Lino Scocchia: Saltfleet District High School



Lino Scocchia has been the key organizer of the HWDSB Special Olympics. Lino assembles over 100 of Saltfleet's students to provide a competitive fun day for students. Lino is respected for the way he inculcates respect and affection for students. He is a well-respected Guidance Counsellor at Saltfleet and also is a member of the School Healthy Action Team. He coaches Hockey, Soccer and Football teams both at the school and in the Stoney Creek Community.

Danielle Coffey: Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School



Danielle has been teaching at Sir John A. Macdonald for the last 10 years in the Family Studies Department. Because of her leadership, SJAM has a strong Hospitality Program, which is in the process of becoming a SHSM. Danielle's strength is her ability to build relationships with students from varied backgrounds. Danielle's program, not only develops culinary skills in students, but also develops students' self confidence, initiative and collaborative skills.

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Joanne DeRubeis: St. Charles Adult Education Centre



In September 2003, Joanne took a huge leap of faith and left nursing to take up the challenge of pioneering the first ever Personal Support Worker program at St. Charles. Each year Joanne graduates 70 PSW students from her course. She then immediately begins to place these students into employment in local long term care facilities and community agencies. Joanne finds joy in seeing her students grow in self confidence and self discovery.

Sam Esposto: St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School



Sam Esposto, business and computer studies department head, has been a dedicated and respected teacher, coach and mentor at SJB. Sam has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, benefiting all students, athletes and colleagues alike. Sam tirelessly dedicates his time to the senior football program and the wrestling team at Brebeuf. Sam frequently mentors young teachers through his careful coordination.

Diana Cuncic: St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School



Diana has coached over 100 athletics teams and she has brought her expertise to St. Thomas More as the Head of the Co-op Department. Diana always goes above and beyond with her students. She is committed to "continuous intake" co-op and always accommodates the "at-risk" students in order that they will meet with success. It is heart-warming to see her students return to STM and share their career experiences.

Karin McLaughlin: St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School



Karin has spent the majority of her time teaching, advocating and caring for students in the Special Education Department. Her sense of community, care for the special needs of all children and attention to detail is impressive. With her effort, 40 students are involved in the Best Buddies program at St. Mary's. She also coached the Junior Boys Soccer team. She helps all students, especially the most vulnerable in the school community, achieve the fullness of their humanity.

Elaine Crawford: Westdale Secondary School



As a Business teacher, Elaine has worked to educate students and employers about the benefits of Co-operative Education. Her moral compass has always been the students and her drive has always been her professional growth. Elaine creates a learning environment that builds character while promoting global citizenship. She models the behaviour we wish to see in others in order to help students meet with their potential.

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John Damaren: Westmount Secondary School



John Damaren's teaching always asks the following question- "What is best for the student?" and as a result he constantly tries to improve his teaching methods. For example, he is piloting iPod use in the applied level classes and is implementing project based learning in his physics courses. John's attitude of doing what is best for the student has become the tone in the Westmount science department.

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