

## Ontario Public Supervisory Officials Honour Outstanding Leaders

At the annual Ontario Public Supervisory Officials Association (OPSOA) conference in Toronto, three OPSOA members were presented with the Distinguished Leadership Award. This award is presented annually to Supervisory Officials who demonstrate outstanding ability and leadership in public education.

This year's recipients include: Terry Ellwood, Director of Education, Lakehead District School Board, Jill Worthy Superintendent of Education, Toronto District School Board, and Jacob Chan, General Manager, Information Technology Services with the Toronto District School Board. All of these individuals have demonstrated exemplary leadership in public education at both the district and provincial levels.



L – R: Jacob Chan, Jill Worthy, Terry Ellwood.

Terry Ellwood has had a long and distinguished career in public education. Before assuming his current role, Terry was the Director of Education with the Superior Greenestone District School Board and prior to that a Superintendent of Education with the Rainy River District School Board. In Rainy River, he established a turnaround schools model that has impacted on student success since its inception. Terry has created numerous partnerships throughout the north to support Aboriginal student achievement. He has been an influential member of the Northern Ontario Educational Leaders (NOEL) organization. Terry was the first Coordinator of the NOEL Aboriginal Education project and has provided provincial leadership in support of Aboriginal learners. He has also been instrumental in advancing the inclusionary

model of special education and has presented provincially on the topics of Literacy and Aboriginal education. Throughout his career, Terry has also been actively involved in a number of community service organizations including coaching team sports for over thirty years. OPSOA is extremely pleased to recognize this outstanding educational leader.

Jill Worthy has provided exemplary leadership in public education throughout her career. She has done extensive work in the area of the Early Years. Jill developed and implemented the first Toronto District School Board Early Years Policy along with procedures to support it. These procedures included the expansion of child care and parenting programs in schools. She has also supported and implemented programs focused on early intervention through integration of services for children aged 0 to 6. This work included the Toronto First Duty program which provided a unique full-day, early-learning model as well as forming a foundation for the Best Start initiative. Jill is a sought-after presenter who has made numerous presentations at the local, provincial and national levels. Other areas of influence and expertise have included establishing programs to increase equity of opportunity both for students and teachers. Jill has also demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting leadership growth and development in public education as well as numerous projects related to environmental sustainability. Her commitment truly reflects the OPSOA vision and agenda.

Jacob Chan has provided outstanding leadership in information technology services at both a district and provincial level. Jacob has had lead roles in a number of Toronto District School Board IT initiatives including: establishing the Academic Workspace project for academic staff and students; the Classroom Technology Migration initiative; and, the conversion of eight former Toronto area board's financial information systems to the TDSB SAP financial system. Jacob's work and contributions have been recognized provincially and nationally. He received the Canadian Information Productivity 2006 Silver Award of Excellence for Organizational Transformation. Jacob has also served as a member of the Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO) Advisory Committee. In this role he has provided insight, direction and advice in guiding ECNO to support all member boards. He has also presented at both provincial and national IT conferences. Jacob's willingness to share his expertise and assume leadership roles have had a significant impact on the development of effective IT policies, procedures, and practices throughout the province. His commitment to enhancing both staff and student learning truly reflects the OPSOA mission.

Ontario Public Supervisory Officials continue to provide vision and leadership across thirty-two district school boards and as representatives and leaders on all provincial education initiatives. This year's three recipients of the OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award provide outstanding role models for all educational leaders in the province.

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