

1999 OSPA Best Practice Award

Over the years the OSPA Executive Board has established ways to recognize its members for their achievements and contributions to the field of school psychology. Through the awards that will be presented here tonight we want to publicly acknowledge the expertise and contributions of some of our colleagues, but we also want to thank them for sharing their ideas and ideals with us. The first of the awards to be presented tonight is the:

PETE GROSS BEST PRACTICE AWARD

This award was established in 1988 to recognize school psychology programs that demonstrate exemplary professional practices and to provide information to other school psychologists. It was named in honor of Pete Gross, a school psychologist who later worked for the State Department of Education, Division of Special Education. Pete Gross understood the good that school psychologists can do for children and, in his role with the state department, worked with us to provide the best services for children. He continually challenged us to develop the skills needed to function at the level of “best practice”. This evening OSPA will be presenting two Best Practices Awards.

The first award is being presented in recognition of the development and implementation of a program designed to help young people who have experienced a death learn ways to cope with grief and the accompanying pain. Sharon Goubeaux is being recognized for the development of the H.U.G.S. program (Helping Us Grieve Successfully). Sharon worked with two members of the Hospice team developing the program, pursued additional training, and became a nationally certified bereavement facilitator. The program that was developed has two levels: an initial level of a series five educational sessions that is offered four times each year and a second level that consists of monthly support group meetings. In addition to this program Sharon has been available as a mentor to other counselors, is a resource for other school psychologists, and serves on the county-wide crisis intervention team. She also publishes a bereavement newsletter. OSPA is pleased to present the Pete Gross Best Practices Award to Sharon Goubeaux for her leadership in educating and supporting grieving children.

A second Best Practices award is presented in recognition of the work of Dr. Perry Clark and Terry Bendo in the implementation of the Intervention-Based MultiFactored Evaluation process in the Akron Public Schools. Their efforts have resulted in a significant realignment of services from test-label-place to an emphasis on authentic assessment leading to enhanced student performance indicators. They have trained teachers, counselors, psychologist, administrators, and families on how to effectively use the collaborative problem-solving model to develop interventions that are both meaningful and measurable. In addition they have supervised the development of local norms using curriculum-based measurement techniques. They have presented countless workshops and inservices to professionals on a local, state, and national level. They are appreciated not only for their expertise and commitment but also for their sense of humor and spirit of fun. OSPA is pleased to present the Pete Gross Best Practices Award to Dr. Perry Clark and Terry Bendo in recognition of their commitment to developing a system for advancing the delivery of meaningful psychological services to thousands of students.