

## **OSPA Spring Awards 2002**

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 today OSPA wants to publicly acknowledge the expertise and contributions of some of our colleagues, however, we also want to take this opportunity thank them for sharing their ideas and their ideals with us.

### **BEST PRACTICE AWARD**

The first award to be presented today is the Pete Gross Best Practice Award. It was established in 1988 to recognize school psychology programs that demonstrate exemplary professional practices and to provide information to other school psychologists about those practices. The award 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 school psychologists to develop the skills needed to function at the level of “best practice”. This afternoon OSPA will be presenting two Best Practices Awards.

One award is being presented in recognition of the development and implementation of programs that help students establish habits of wellness, self-esteem, confidence, and responsible citizenship. Dr. Susan Boyer has been working with the school counselor in designing group counseling programs for the New Albany School District. She has focused especially on the emotional needs of low achieving children, discovering that these children often did not need an MFE but instead needed a positive outlet for the emotional difficulties that were interfering with school performance. These difficulties could include divorce, death of a close relative, and social skills deficits. Dr. Boyer has also developed surveys for the students, teachers, and parents in order to obtain client input regarding the effectiveness of the programs and, in that way, refine and improve the programs. In recognition of her innovative, collaborative, and research-based approaches to meet the emotional needs of children, OSPA is pleased to present the Pete Gross Best Practice Award to Dr. Susan Boyer.

The second award is being presented to Aimee Kirsch and Jeff York. Their expertise and persistence has resulted in improved efficiency in meeting the demands for documentation in a busy urban district. They have also provided support for their colleagues, through in-services and individual assistance, in the implementation of technology programs in the Child Study Department of Akron Public Schools. Mrs. Kirsch developed a software program, that she continues to upgrade and improve, that allows the user to prepare a multi-factored and individualized education plan in a user-friendly format. She then trained the staff in the use of the software. Mr. York developed a written technical manual to assist in the use of the program and, in addition, has developed a website that provides access to needed forms, links to professional associations, and other varied information and resource links for teachers, psychologists, and parents. OSPA is pleased to recognize Aimee Kirsch and Jeff York for the integration and application of computer technology to the practice of school psychology.

#### BARTLETT AWARD

In March of 1972 OSPA created the Clyde V. Bartlett Distinguished Service Award in memory of Mr. Bartlett, an active member of OSPA who served on the Executive Board, was newsletter editor, worked on the school and private practice certification committee, and was president in 1960-61. He is remembered for his ability to make everyone feel welcome and vital to the organization.

The purpose of this award is to recognize an Ohio school psychologist for outstanding services or achievement in the profession. The criteria for selection include: significant contributions to the growth and development of the profession, outstanding service to the community in the area of mental health, and the personal qualities thought to be desirable in the profession.

Dr. Audrey Ellenwood, professor at Bowling Green State University, will introduce this year's recipient of the Clyde Bartlett Distinguished Service Award.