

The Ohio School Psychologists Association selects one practitioner each year as the Ohio School Psychologist of the Year. Nominations are submitted through the regional associations. The Ohio School Psychologist of the Year is a member of OSPA who demonstrates current excellence in the delivery of school psychological services to students, families, and teachers typically within a school setting. A school psychologist must spend 75% of the time in direct service delivery in order to be eligible for this award. The Ohio School Psychologist of the Year is nominated by OSPA in the following year for the NASP School Psychologist of the Year Award.

OSPA believes it to be an honor to be nominated by the regional association and we would like to recognize two nominees for 2008.

The School Psychologist Association of Southeastern Ohio nominated Nina Andrews. Nina is currently employed by the Logan-Hocking School District in Logan, Ohio where she has worked for the last 22 years. Despite serving five buildings and completing an average of 100 Evaluation Team Reports per year, Nina has made it a priority to provide on-going mental health services to the students in her district. She has initiated suicide prevention programs, led the high school in participation in National Depression Screening Day, organized National Youth Prevention Week, and implemented a building respect program. Nina is a member of the Hocking County Consult Team which is a multi-disciplinary team that meets monthly to provide services to school-age children. She is the founder and a member of the Youth Experiencing Success in School (Y.E.S.S.) program that provides mental health services to elementary students with disruptive behaviors and/or attention issues. Nina is a member of the Southeast Action Network for Mental Health and the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success. She is the President of the School Psychologist Association of Southeastern Ohio for the second time and is a regional representative to OSPA. Nina was not able to attend today, but please join OSPA in celebrating her accomplishments for children.

The Cleveland Association of School Psychologists nominated Sal Karanouh-Schuler, and she is currently employed by Parma City Schools. Sal's peers state that she "was pioneering curriculum-based measurement and IBMFE's" before anyone had even heard of RTI. She has been a driving force in implementing and sustaining IAT teams, curriculum-based assessment, and the development of RTI in her district. One of her principals wrote that "Sal's extensive knowledge, diagnostic expertise, and approachability make her an ideal resource person for both our school community and district. Her willingness to assist others has endeared her to staff, parents, and students. In addition to these comments, teachers, parents, and even a student wrote letters of support that are a true testament to Sal's dedication and the difference that she makes in the lives of children. Sal is active in her regional association where she has served as the regional representative to OSPA and is currently the Co-Chair of the Spring Conference Committee. Many comments were made by her colleagues attesting to her ability to be a leader. Another principal Sal works with stated, "I not only became a better educator because of Sal, I became a better person." It is with great pleasure that I present Sal Karanouh-Schuler as the Ohio School Psychologist of the Year for 2008.