

OSPA Fall Conference 2010

Ohio School Psychologist of the Year Award



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In 1991 the OSPA Executive Board voted to establish the School Psychologist of the Year Award – an award that would honor a member of OSPA for current excellence in service delivery. It was required, therefore, that at least seventy-five percent of a candidate's time be spent providing school psychological services to students, teachers, and parents, typically in a school setting.

The nominee of the Cleveland Association of School Psychologists is Dan Dean. Dan has long been associated with CASP, OSPA, and NASP and is currently serving as the CASP Regional Representative to OSPA. Dan was awarded the F. Pete Gross Best Practice Award in 1996 for the development and implementation of the crisis intervention program for Cleveland Municipal Schools. Dan currently works for Parma City Schools where he has co-chaired the DIBELS initiative and worked to implement RTI across the district. Dan's colleagues describe him as calm, composed, and an excellent communicator. In his spare time, Dan is an avid runner and participates in various fundraising runs including the Walk for Autism and the Ronald McDonald House. Please join OSPA in honoring Dan Dean for his dedication to children and the profession of school psychology.

OSPA believes it to be an honor to be nominated by the regional association and we would like to recognize three nominees for 2010.

The co-nominees of the Kent Akron Association of School Psychologists are the dynamic duo of Jeff York and Dr. Rob

Kubick, Jr. Both of these outstanding professionals are employed by Akron Public Schools. Rob serves 2 middle schools and an alternative high school. In one of his schools, he has trained staff and led the team in developing building-wide interventions within the RTI process. In his other middle school, he has identified root behavioral issues that are preventing students from making adequate yearly progress. Rob has worked with the building team to implement school-wide in-



Daniel Dean, 2010 Ohio School Psychologist of the Year

terventions for behavior and then moving onto academic interventions. Jeff York has worked primarily with the Early Learning Program where he works collaboratively with students, parents, teachers, and related service personnel to provide services to several hundred preschoolers with intensive needs. He has worked to develop

“one stop shopping” for assessment services in one location and often in a single visit. Rob and Jeff both serve on multiple districtwide committees in Akron Public Schools. In OSPA, Rob has revitalized the TOSP and drawn national attention to OSPA for this publication. Jeff is OSPA’s Technology Chair, Webmaster, and moderator of the OSPA listserv. Rob and Jeff have worked on multiple projects for OSPA including the archives, revisions of the OSPA Constitution and Operations Manual, and the Membership Survey Project. Please join OSPA in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Rob and Jeff.

The nominee of the School Psychologists of Central Ohio is Sara Timms. She is currently employed by Columbus City Schools where she serves as the point person for the Traumatic Brain Injury project which was piloted in 2006 in conjunction with the Ohio Legal Rights Service. In that role Sara has worked tirelessly to better identify and work with students with TBI, raise awareness among school staff and families about TBI, and support families in their efforts to ensure their children receive appropriate supports. She has expanded the TBI project to include Columbus City Schools’ athletic programs where she educates trainers about TBI. Sara has teamed with the Ohio State University Sports Medicine program and CCS athletic trainers to bring a computerized concussion evaluation system to Columbus City Schools’ high schools. Please join OSPA in recognizing Sara’s commitment to improving the lives of the students she works with.

After careful consideration of these outstanding nominees, the Awards Committee is pleased to present the award for Ohio School Psychologist of the Year to Dan Dean.

Remarks from Dan Dean

Good morning. The night I was apprised of being the regional winner, my dear



Dan Dean is presented with OSPA's 2010 Ohio School Psychologist of the Year Award from OSPA President Elaine Semper.

friend, Juliette Madigan, former School Psychologist of the Year, turned to me and said “Congratulations, Dan, now earn it!”

Seriously, of all my accomplishments in school psychology, I hold this one most dear because of my deep respect for our organization, an organization that has made learning and mental health needs of our children a priority.

Joining me today is my wife, Kathy, who continues to inspire and support me after 29 years of marriage (she should be getting some kind of award). I would also like to recognize my former colleagues from Cleveland as they taught me the foundational pieces of our profession. In addition, I have a few Parma colleagues joining me today: Sal Karnouh-Schuler, former School Psychologist of the Year and Adria Fisher, my former intern, and now colleague in Parma. I want to also thank the Awards Committee and a special thanks

to Kristen Prough for all of her ongoing hard work for OSPA. A special note of thanks to Dr. Linda Neheiser, former School Psychologist of the Year for her kind words during the nomination process, and to my former intern, Adria Fisher for her generous comments in her letter of support.

In closing, I want to share a story about finding strength in weakness. I have always been fascinated with the assessment process and have enjoyed putting together a definitive pattern of strengths and weaknesses in children that I have served. There are times, however, that a strength goes unnoticed because of one’s perception of a disabled child.

During my internship year, it was my task to evaluate a vision impaired, medically fragile child, with cognitive delays at a county site. Upon arrival, I was escorted

to a centrally located office in the building and instructed to be very careful with the student who I will call Anna. The teacher made it quite clear Anna is ambulatory, but will walk very slowly and cannot be jostled in the hallway, and may fatigue after 15 to 20 minutes. After a brief period, the fire alarm went off. I peered out the door and found chaos as the students were running wildly to leave the center. I questioned an adult in the hallway and the reply was, "You need to get out of the building." I was reluctant to take Anna out that door for fear of her being run into by passerbies. I simply wasn't sure what direction to go and if it were a real fire would I go the wrong direction putting us both in danger. So, I did the unthinkable, I turned to Anna and said, "Do you know how to get out of here?" She looked up at me and said, "Hand me my cane."

Anna got us both out as she knew the safest and shortest path out of the building. There was no fire just some confusion after an alarm had inadvertently been pulled. My experience that day with Anna forever changed my view of children's disabilities and the limitations we may impose.

Again, thank you for this award. Please enjoy the rest of the conference.



Kathy and Dan Dean celebrate his winning OSPA's 2010 Ohio School Psychologist of the Year Award