

## **EOSDN Announces 2021 Eleanor Newman Award for Outstanding Service**



The Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network is pleased to announce the 2021 and inaugural recipient of the *Eleanor Newman Award for Outstanding Service*, **Stephen Sliwa**, Director of Education, Upper Canada DSB. The Outstanding Service Award was officially renamed in 2020 to honour out-going Executive Director, Eleanor Newman, who has devoted many years of her professional career in service of the Network and its Mission.

In making the announcement, EOSDN Board Chair, Michele Babcock, echoed the recommendation of one of the nominators that “recognizes Steve’s long-standing commitment to and active participation in the growth and ongoing success of EOSDN.”

In her nomination, Dean Rebecca Luce-Kapler, Faculty of Education, Queen’s University and former long-serving member of the EOSDN Board, wrote that Director Sliwa has always “promoted the Network across the region and provincially as a unique organization whose greatest assets are the people who energetically find ways to support one another and share expertise and resources aimed to improve student achievement.”

Director Sliwa has long supported the Network and, as submitted by his senior leadership team at UCDSB, this is evidenced by “his service to EOSDN” which has been “valued and impactful to the success of the Network and to the professional growth and success of those he has encouraged to actively engage in EOSDN learning opportunities. His most notable contribution to EOSDN has been his co-facilitation over many years of the Supervisory Officer’s Qualification Program” (SOQP). In service of the work of SOQP, he “modelled professionalism and integrity...” His work “clearly supported the goals of EOSDN to promote effective practice and high-quality professional learning through the lens of educational realities in rural Eastern Ontario.” To further support the nomination, SOQP co-facilitator, Manon Séguin submitted “his leadership during the course largely influenced the candidates and they greatly valued his well-thought insights in education.” Superintendent Séguin added that he served in many capacities over the years, and has been “a great advocate for the Network.”

Additionally, Director Sliwa, championed many EOSDN endeavours and initiatives, including the highly regarded Leadership Academy, the regional Adult Education Project, Support Staff Learning Assembly, Français à coeur, the Thinking Symposium and the Closing the Gaps in Mathematics undertaking. He has also been a strong supporter of the EOSDN “annual visioning exercise” that helps the Board of Directors plan for and execute initiatives that align with the needs of regional District School Boards, advancing the work that benefits all students to be successful.

“While there are many responsibilities and demands on his time, Steve took time to acknowledge the work and the staff (EOSDN) performing the roles.” Dean Luce-Kapler concluded her nomination by noting that Steve “understands the importance of service to the profession and has demonstrated this commitment in many ways, including his long-standing participation with EOSDN.”

With consideration for the ongoing pandemic, the Board of Directors is planning to present Director Sliwa with *The Eleanor Newman Award for Outstanding Service* in the fall of 2021 during the Network’s Annual General Meeting.

The Board extends its congratulations to Steve and invites all Network colleagues to do the same.