

The Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network Announces the 2020 Outstanding Service Award



The Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network (EOSDN) is pleased to announce that

Susan McWilliams

Manager, Human Resources, Limestone District School Board,
is the recipient of Network's 2020 Outstanding Service Award

Susan McWilliams has been a contributor to EOSDN leadership programs for several years and truly believes in the power of regional networking to build the confidence and capacity of those who provide leadership while serving in different roles in systems and schools. Her professionalism and work ethic are sources of inspiration for her colleagues across the board, the network and the province.

In her nomination of Ms. McWilliams, Director of Education Debra Rantz said "Sue's professionalism is unparalleled. Her multi-dimensional role has not been easy, yet she approaches all her duties with a stance of openness, eagerness, creativity, diligence and 'stick-with-it-ness. She puts deep thought and effort in finding the best possible solution for the myriad of complex problems that come her way and she promotes EOSDN as a vehicle for networking and problem solving.

"Susan has been a guest speaker on various EOSDN SOQP Modules for many years sharing her Human Resources expertise", wrote Andre Labrie, Superintendent of Human Resources at Limestone DSB and one of Sue's nominators for the Award. "When EOSDN initiated the Leadership Academy, Susan was an obvious choice as Limestone's representative" for the facilitator team. "She embraced the opportunity, has been a key contributor and facilitator to each program since, and she continues to this day. Susan never stops reflecting and revising her contributions to the Leadership Academy."

According to her colleagues, fellow Leadership Academy facilitators and Academy participants, Susan is a consummate professional. "Her years of service to SOQP and the Leadership Academy are greatly appreciated, and the work she puts into both are worthy of recognition, said Mr. Labrie. "Sue is an excellent communicator and models thoughtful reflection and continuous learning. Sue has a creative side that enhances her approach to learning with others."

As a facilitator for the EOSDN Leadership Academy since 2014, "Sue has welcomed and coached many new facilitators", wrote Michele Babcock, Superintendent of Education. "Her feedback is always constructive and supportive. She has a creative side that enhances her approach to learning with others. One example is her creation of the PLR game that continues to be used annually at the Academy sessions. The game supports participants learning about and applying the Personal Leadership Resources to real situations.

In her nomination of Ms. McWilliams, Ms. Babcock wrote that "Sue rises to challenges and new learning. This year the Academy incorporated virtual sessions into the course work. Sue went beyond the initial planning to incorporate ways to bolster interactivity in the virtual sessions helping to contribute to its engagement and success. "

The EOSDN Board of Directors congratulates Susan McWilliams on being named the recipient of this year's Outstanding Service Award. Historically, the Award is presented to the recipient at the annual EOSDN dinner in May. Given current circumstances, the EOSDN Board of Directors will formally present the Award to this very worthy recipient at a November, 2020 dinner. Please join us in congratulating Susan.