

The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award



*Award
History,
Purpose,
Details and
Application
with
Directions*

“Celebrating and recognizing others is so important...for each of us.”

Quote from Shelli Miller, OAPSA Member &
Special Education Coordinator,
Hilliard City Schools



The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award

AWARD HISTORY

Beginning in 2019, following the retirement of Dr. Opperman, the first Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators (OAPSA), OAPSA's Executive Board established The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award to annually recognize a member of OAPSA who had contributed greatly to the profession.

PURPOSE OF AWARD

Student Services Administrators are not accustomed to receiving praise and recognition. In fact, they usually operate in the shadows until something goes awry. Each of us now has an opportunity to nominate one of our colleagues for some well-deserved recognition.

DETAILS OF AWARD

Every year at our May Conference we present an OASPA member with The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award.

The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award is presented to an administrator who meets the following criteria:

1. A highly successful school administrator who is commonly acknowledged as such in his/her district or agency and beyond
2. Has been or is an active OAPSA member and, in that role, makes or made a significant contribution to the Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators.
3. Has made a significant contribution to improving pupil services, student services and/or special education work in his/her district/agency and/or beyond;
4. Who is:
 - a) actively involved in school pupil services (or student services) administration and is an OAPSA member
 - or
 - b) a former school pupil services administrator who was an OAPSA member while in that role and has taken another position in education,
 - or
 - c) a retired school pupil services administrator who has been or is a retired OAPSA member

You may know some hard-working, unsung heroes working in Student Services/Special Education Administration. Please consider nominating one of these deserving people. To nominate an individual, please complete the attached nomination form and return as directed by March 1 of this year.

PROFILE OF DR. OPPERMAN

Dr. Opperman received his PhD in Special Education Administration as well as his MBA in General Management from Case Western Reserve University. He received his MEd in Special Education from Kent State University and his BS in Education of Hearing Impaired from Syracuse University. During his professional career, John was a teacher and held various Special Education/Student Services positions in three different school districts as well as Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center. John also served as the Executive Director at Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and was Owner/Director of Sylvan Learning Center in Independence Ohio.

Offices Held by Dr. Opperman

Dr. Opperman was elected to one or more positions, including president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, or executive committee member in the following organizations:

- Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators – OAPSA (state)
- National Association of Pupil Services Administrators – NAPSA (national)
- Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities – OCECD (state)
- Council of Administrators of Special Education – CASE (state)
- Council for Exceptional Children - CEC (local, state, national)
- National Association of Special Education Technology (national)
- Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (local)
- Ohio Council of Speech and Hearing Executives (state)

Advisory Boards on which Dr. Opperman Served

Dr. Opperman served on the following advisory boards or committees:

- Medina Creative Housing Board (homes for individuals with disabilities)
- Ohio Behavior Management Plan Task Force
- Ohio Special Education Advisory Committee
- Regional Career Planning Advisory Council
- Positive Education Program
- Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
- Comprehensive Services for the Adult Deaf
- Developmental Learning Materials (DLM)
- National Professional Advisory Board
- Ohio Bell / Ameritech - Statewide Consumer Advisory Panel

Contribution to OAPSA by Dr. Opperman

Dr. Opperman was instrumental in establishing the system of distributing important email messages to deliver breaking news and timely updates to OAPSA members. John served as Secretary of OAPSA beginning in 1996 and then moved up the ranks to also serve as President Elect, President, and Past President for OAPSA. During his time as secretary for OAPSA, he started sending email communications to members to

help ensure members were up to date with the latest information. Members appreciated his email communications so much that he continued sending them as he moved through the other officer positions and when he finished his five-year commitment on the Executive Board, OAPSA created an officer position called Communications Officer so John could continue to send email updates to OAPSA members. John served on the OAPSA Executive Board from 1996 – 2013 and then served as the first OAPSA Executive Director from 2013-2018. John is known for his professionalism, his warmth, his dedication to improving special education services for students with disabilities, and his ability to explain complex situations in simple ways.

Recipients of the Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award

May 2019 – Debora Dennis, Special Education Director, Avon Local Schools

May 2020 – Angela Macwhinney, Director of Special Education, Delaware City Schools

May 2021- Kristina Hulse, Executive Director of Student Services, Pickerington Local Schools

May 2022 – Deidre Parsons, Director of Student Services, Barberton City Schools

The Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award Recipient for 2022 is Deidre Parsons

“I am truly honored and humbled to receive such a prestigious award. There are so many deserving colleagues. I am truly blessed to be working with so many caring and talented people. Thank you for this wonderful honor !”



Note: Copy of the Award Nomination Form is available in **Word Format. If you prefer that Word Format, simply request a copy of the nomination form in Word Format from Donna Stelzer at OAPSA.DonnaStelzer@gmail.com**



OAPSA Award Nomination Form for

The 2023 Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award

To nominate someone who is worthy of this award, please complete this form.

Be sure to choose an individual who meets the following requirements:

- **Is a deserving individual who is commonly acknowledged as a highly successful educational administrator in his/her district/agency or beyond and who made a significant contribution to improving student services and the betterment of education in his/her district/agency and beyond**
- **Has actively been or is an OAPSA member and, in that role, made a significant contribution to OAPSA (Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators)**

Nominator's (Your) Name _____

Your District/Agency/Organization_____

Your Title_____ Your Phone_____

Your Email_____

I nominate the individual listed below for the Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Achievement Award:

Nominee's Name_____

Nominee's District/Agency/Organization_____

Nominee's Current Title_____

Nominee's Former Title (if applicable) _____

_____ Nominee's Phone_____

Nominee's Email_____

I have notified my nominee that I am submitting this application.

Yes ___ No___ **(NOTE: If you have not yet notified your nominee that you are nominating them for this honor, please do so and be aware that we will also notify them.)**

➤ (Check each of the three remarks below that are true statements that apply to your nominee.)

My nominee...

_____ 1. Is a highly successful school administrator who is commonly acknowledged as such in his/her district or agency and beyond.

_____ 2. Has been or is an active OAPSA member and, in that role, makes or made a significant contribution to the Ohio Association of Ppil Services Administrators (OAPSA).

_____ 3. Has made a significant contribution to improving pupil services and/or special education and the betterment of education in his/her district/agency and/or beyond.

➤ Check one of the following 3 statements:

My nominee....

___a) is actively involved in school pupil services (or student services or special education) administration and is an OAPSA member

or

___b) is a former school pupil services administrator who was an OAPSA member while in that role and has now taken another position in education.

List years your nominee was an OAPSA member: _____

or

___c) is a retired school pupil services administrator who was an OAPSA member while serving in that role or is a retired OAPSA member

(List the years your nominee was an OAPSA member) _____

What year did this individual retire? _____

I confirm that the information I'm submitting in this nomination form is accurate.

Signature

Date

Please comment on why your nominee is deserving of the award based on the criteria below and feel free to exceed the number of lines indicated:

- 1. Explain why this individual is (or was) commonly acknowledged as a highly successful educational administrator**

- 2. When was the individual an active member of OAPSA?**

- 3. How has this individual made a significant contribution to OAPSA? Please note that this section will be given more weight when scoring than questions #1 and #4.**

- 4. How has this individual made a significant contribution to improving student services/special education in his/her district and/or beyond?**

**Attach additional pages for these responses, if needed.
Optional - but Encouraged:**

Additional individuals from the district/agency or professional organization(s) (including OAPSA) who support the nomination of _____ (Insert name of Nominee) to be nominated for

The 2023 Dr. John Opperman Outstanding Contribution Award follow:

Name _____

District/Agency/Organization _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I support the nomination of _____ **(Insert name of Nominee)**

Signature

Date

Name _____

District/Agency/Organization _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I support the nomination of _____ **(Insert name of Nominee)**

Signature

Date

Name _____

District/Agency/Organization _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I support the nomination of _____ **(Insert Name of Nominee)**

Signature

Date

Name _____

District/Agency/Organization _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I support the nomination of _____ **(Insert Name of Nominee)**

Signature

Date

Name _____

District/Agency/Organization _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I support the nomination of _____ **(Insert name of Nominee)**

Signature

Date

NOTE: Please send the completed nomination forms including:

- **pages 4 – 6 plus optional pages 7- 8 of this packet**
- **plus, any supporting information including your nominee’s resume/vita and recommendation letters (for your nominee) from your nominee’s staff members and/or colleagues**
- **Plus, any additional pages if desired**

to Donna Stelzer at OAPSA.DonnaStelzer@gmail.com

no later than March 1, 2023.

Thank you for taking the time to nominate an individual worthy of this award! It’s one way that OAPSA celebrates our profession!