



DR. JOHN OPPERMAN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

***Award History, Purpose &
Details***

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

Quote from Shelley 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. They usually operate in the shadows until something goes awry. Each of us has an opportunity to nominate one of our colleagues for some well-deserved recognition.

DETAILS OF AWARD

Every year at an OAPSA conference, an OASPA member is presented 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
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 form linked below:

[Dr. John Opperman Award Nomination Form](#)

PROFILE OF DR. OPPERMAN

Dr. Opperman received his PhD in Special Education Administration and an 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 in 1996 and then moved up the ranks to 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 to 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

May 2023: Rebecca Furbay, Director of Special Education, Centerville City Schools

May 2024: Melinda Vaughn, Director of Student Services, Newark City Schools

Please consider nominating an OAPSA member who meets the criteria of this award and has made an impact early in their career. To nominate an OAPSA member for this award, please complete the nomination form linked on the OAPSA website and also below.

[Dr. John Opperman Award Nomination Form](#)