

OPSOA CONFERENCE 2006 - APRIL 6 & 7

April 6 & 7, 2006 – InterContinental Toronto, 220 Bloor Street West, Toronto

This year's OPSOA Annual Conference will be held at the InterContinental Toronto on Bloor Street on Thursday, April 6 and Friday, April 7.

The theme is "**Using Data to Improve Student Success – Looking At and Beyond the Numb3rs**".

The program is now set and we are pleased to enclose an updated Registration Form with more program details

The early bird registration winner is Geoff Williams, Director of Education at the Avon Maitland District School Board. Congratulations, Geoff!

Please note that this year's President's Reception and Banquet will be held on Thursday evening, April 6th. This meal is included in your conference registration fee.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

JOINT OPSOA/OPC PRE CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM APRIL 5

April 5 – InterContinental Toronto Hotel, 220 Bloor Street West, Toronto 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration is limited to a team of 4 per board (2 OPSOA/2 OPC members) for the OPSOA/OPC Symposium with Michael Fullan.

If your board has not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PACKAGE

Your Package for the OPSOA Annual General Meeting is included in this mailing.

The AGM will take place on Friday, April 7th from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., following the Minister of Education.

Proxy Votes must be registered one hour prior to the AGM.

Please bring this package with you to the AGM.

OPSOA Mentorship Program Evolves and Expands

Ten recently appointed supervisory officers in three different school districts are presently enjoying the benefits of working with a mentor. The mentors are jointly sponsored by OPSOA and their school district. Would you be interested in becoming involved in the program? Study after study since the 1970s has pointed to being mentored as one of the most important predictors of a successful career.

As you are aware, supervisory officers are retiring at an unprecedented rate. OPSOA has recognized mentorship as an effective way to transmit the collective wisdom of these experienced administrators to those replacing them in the profession. To our knowledge, no other organization supports individuals within the profession by using persons recently retired as mentors.

The program is now available to all members of OPSOA. Most participants are newly appointed, however, some have experience and others are new to a particular portfolio. The program can begin at anytime and usually lasts for one year. OPSOA alumni members volunteer for the program and mentors are presently available. Mentees have input into selection of their mentor.

The mentoring relationship is confidential, reflective and growth oriented. One of the first mentees wrote the following concerning the mentors involved:

“The biggest factor is the quality of the mentors. From all conversations with this year’s mentees it is clear that the mentors were incredibly strong, knowledgeable individuals with rich expertise and experience. They were also individuals who model ongoing learning and risk taking as they continue their own professional development past retirement.

What other program provides a one-on-one support mechanism for a year for less than the cost of a conference? If you would like to learn more about the program, read the information flyer found in the OSOnet members’ information section behind the OPSOA icon. If you would like to discuss obtaining a mentor, contact the OPSOA office.

OPC/OPSOA 2006 PD Booklet

Included in this mailing is a copy of the newly published OPC/OPSOA Brochure “Resources, Supports and Training Opportunities for Education Leaders”. This catalogue is a joint resource from the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials’ Association (OPSOA) and the Ontario Principals’ Council (OPC). It contains a comprehensive array of professional development opportunities and resources to support education leaders at all levels. Whether you are a supervisory officer or a principal/vice-principal, we are sure that you will find all of the resources contained in this catalogue of benefit to you in your role.

While the resources in this catalogue were initially developed for either principals/vice-principals or supervisory officers, all are relevant to both groups as they contain information that will enhance and render more effective the working relationships between school administrators and supervisory officers.

All resources are available to both groups at Member rates through the OPC website. In order to access these rates, OPSOA Members must follow the link to the OPC site located within the Professional Development Conference on OSOnet, and login using their OSOnet username.