

For immediate release

Oakville secondary school teacher receives OTIP award for teaching excellence

TORONTO, September 26, 2018 — Jeff White, a teacher at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville, received the OTIP Teaching Award in the Beginning Teacher Category at the OTIP awards ceremony last night.

Jeff White, after 30 years in the restaurant business, went into teaching to share his knowledge with young people. And this he has done in the hospitality program – with an energy and enthusiasm which is rewarded by the success of his students.

Jeff brings the classroom alive not only through his teaching from experience but more so, through his acceptance of students as they are and encouraging them to have confidence in their abilities. Students, who may feel marginalized, leave his courses with a more positive self-image. As one student stated about Jeff, “you have taught me to be respectful and to put my heart into everything that I do but most importantly, you have taught me that it is okay to act like yourself in front of others instead of putting on a mask.”

Jeff’s students experience the real world of working in and running a restaurant. As the lead teacher in culinary arts, he assembled a team of five local restaurateurs which provides chefs, managers and others to act as mentors to his students. To further the real-life work experience, his students opened a restaurant in the school which serves staff and students alike. He is currently working on a project with an Indigenous chef to create native Canadian dishes which will be served in the student restaurant to integrate Indigenous Studies into the classroom in a meaningful way.

To improve and expand his program, he regularly contacts other hospitality teachers as well as seeks feedback from students and parents. In short, Jeff provides a safe and practical learning environment where students graduate with employable skills. To date, he has placed over 35 students in jobs in the community.

Jeff is typical of the new, inspired teachers in Ontario’s classrooms.

More information and a video honouring Jeff are posted on the Teaching Awards website: teachingawards.ca.

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and the Ontario Teachers’ Federation co-sponsor the OTIP Teaching Awards for excellence in teaching in the publicly funded school system. Three awards are presented: elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher and beginning teacher.

About OTIP: Creating Insured Members for Life. At OTIP (www.otip.com), we not only understand the education system, we believe in it. OTIP has been committed to providing quality insurance benefits and advice for the best value since 1977. Across all lines of insurance, OTIP provides coverage to over 160,000 education employees in the province. Owned by Ontario’s four education affiliates (AEFO, ETFO, OECTA and OSSTF) and directed by a Board of Trustees, OTIP was built on the belief that educators would be better served by a not-for-profit insurance advocate that was part of the education community. This remains our philosophy today.

OTF is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000 teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all publicly-funded schools in the province – elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and francophone.

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