

1996 Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award: Evelyn Sawicki



Liz Donovan and Evelyn Sawicki

The following is the text of the award presentation at the annual conference in Red Deer, November 1996.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you this year's recipient of the Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award. As you may know, this award is bestowed upon those individuals who provide leadership and encouragement for the enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics.

This year's award-winner is Evelyn Sawicki. Evelyn is an outstanding individual and a knowledgeable and insightful leader in the area of mathematics. She is recognized by her peers as an exceptional mathematics resource person and it is most fitting that she is being recognized with this award. I would like to highlight Evelyn's career and her many accomplishments which have led up to this award.

I am told that Evelyn's interest and love of mathematics began in Kindergarten. It was as an ECS teacher that she became aware of the importance of math and the many opportunities for developing mathematical understanding even in very young children. Her interest in math led her to pursue a master's degree in mathematics education. She continued to teach at the elementary and junior high levels in the Calgary Catholic Board and she became involved in a wide range of committees. At the district level she has served on the elementary and junior high math committees, and was a member of the Holistic Math

Committee. She worked in conjunction with the Calgary Catholic Board, the Calgary Board of Education and Alberta Education as a system mathematics specialist on the Education Quality Indicators Project.

In 1990, Evelyn was appointed to the position of mathematics consultant with the Calgary Catholic Board. During her term as consultant she showed exemplary leadership in establishing high standards for instruction, as well as organizing inservice support for implementation of the new mathematics curriculum.

She was then appointed to the position of supervisor of mathematics. At this level she has been responsible for the enormous task of developing, maintaining and improving program content and quality in all schools for Grades K-12.

Evelyn has made major presentations at NCTM conferences in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. She has also been a speaker at MCATA conferences and mini-conferences in Calgary, Medicine Hat and Pincher Creek.

Evelyn has been a member of the Alberta Education Elementary Mathematics Advisory Committee and she has had significant input into the Mathematics Common Curriculum Framework for Grades K-12.

As a district, we are very fortunate to have Evelyn as our supervisor. For myself, I am in awe of her energy and commitment to the field of mathematics. She has inspired me and made an incredible difference to my own teaching of math.

I would like to quote from some of her nomination letters for this award. Moira Martin describes Evelyn as a leader who demonstrates "initiative and vision, patience and understanding, knowledge and wisdom, commitment and focus." Barb Morrison says of Evelyn: "she has a genuine concern for the improvement of mathematics and this has gained her the respect of all colleagues with whom she has worked at the local and provincial levels."

This award is a very well-deserved honor and it is with pleasure and admiration that I would like to present you—Evelyn—with the Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award.

Liz Donovan