



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

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For immediate release

Catholic Board Seeks Nominations for Annual Distinguished Graduate Award

Grads making a difference locally, nationally & internationally

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is seeking nominations for its annual *Distinguished Graduate Award*. Deadline for submissions is **April 15, 2017**.

QuickFacts

- ✓ The prestigious award was initiated by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to honour graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their faith and have made significant contributions to their community.
- ✓ Past award recipients are:
 - **Michael Schmitt**, Former WCDSB teacher, Principal, Superintendent & Director of Education (2016);
 - **Dr. Douglas Letson, C.M.**, Former President & Vice-Chancellor, St. Jerome's University (2015);
 - **Dr. Katherine Bergman**, President & Vice-Chancellor, St. Jerome's University (2014);
 - **Mary Jo Fedy**, Managing Partner, KPMG -- Waterloo (2013);
 - **Rev. Toby Collins, C.R.**, Vocation Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection (2012);
 - Teacher / missionary **Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND** (2011);
 - **David Eby**, Executive Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association – and current B.C. MLA (2010);
 - **Rev. Paul Voisin, C.R.**, Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton (Bermuda) (2009);
 - Former Ontario cabinet minister **Dr. John Milloy** (2008);
 - CTV National News Anchor **Lisa LaFlamme** (2007);
 - University of Waterloo professor **Dr. Brian Orend** (2006); and,
 - Ontario Superior Court Justice **Patrick J. Flynn** (2005).

Quotes

"I'm honoured and humbled to know that I am the first ever recipient of this award. When I think of all who have graduated from this great Catholic School system in Waterloo Region since Fr. Eugene Funcken brought it to life, before Canada was born - and generations before my father emigrated from Ireland - I am simply overwhelmed. I stand here for all of them today".

-- **Hon. Justice Patrick Flynn (from 2005 DGA Award acceptance speech)**

"As you are graduates of this school board, I am literally begging you to help move us forward in a vision of equality, fairness and justice. Nobody else is better placed than you to welcome those at the edges to come in and share in the wealth of our society. If you do take on this challenge, I will be standing shoulder to shoulder with you on the front lines, and so will hundreds of thousands of others".

-- **David Eby (from 2010 DGA Award acceptance speech)**

"I am deeply honoured to be recognized by the Board in this way. The gift of Catholic education is to form students in their faith and educate them to become trustworthy citizens of the world. It is this gift of formation and education, nurtured in Waterloo Catholic, that I have and always will treasure".

-- **Michael Schmitt (2016)**

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education
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Related Links

[WCDSB Distinguished Graduate Award Page](#)

[Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 180-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsire - #WCDSBAwesome.**

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