



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

35 Weber Street West • P.O. Box 91116 • Kitchener Ontario Canada • N2G 4G2
Telephone: 519.578.3660



News Release

May 12, 2016
For immediate release

Catholic Board Names Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient

Long-time Catholic educator Michael Schmitt receives prestigious honour

Waterloo Region, ON – The students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools proudly congratulate **Michael Schmitt** as the school board's 2016 **Distinguished Graduate Award** honouree.

The award will be presented on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at the **Resurrection Catholic Secondary School** graduation ceremony. Michael served as the first principal of Resurrection CSS when the school first opened in 1990.

QuickFacts

- ✓ Born and raised in Kitchener, Michael Schmitt attended **St. John CES** and **St. Francis of Assisi CES** before graduating from the former **St. Jerome's High School**. He went on to become a WCDSB secondary school teacher, vice principal and principal (**Resurrection CSS**, **Monsignor Doyle CSS**, and **St. David CSS**).
- ✓ Michael served as WCDSB's **Superintendent of Program and Student Services** from 2000 to 2005, before joining the staff of the Ministry of Education as **Student Achievement Officer**.
- ✓ Michael later served as **Director of Education of the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** (Kingston) from 2005 until his retirement in 2011. Following his retirement from ALCDSB Michael continued serving Catholic education as a legal issues advisor for the **Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario**. He is a former president of the **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association** and former chair of the **English Catholic Council of Ontario Directors of Education**.
- ✓ In 2014-15, Michael served as Interim Director of Education for Waterloo Region's Catholic schools -- prior to the appointment of current Director **Loretta Notten**.
- ✓ Today, Michael serves on the Board of Directors of the **YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo** and the **Hospice of Waterloo Region Community Advisory Committee**. He served as 2015 "Campaign Champion" for **United Way K-W** and is currently President of **Supportive Housing of Waterloo**.

Quotes

"In the nominations for Michael Schmitt to be the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award, there were some wonderful things said about him, noting the many highlights of his impressive resume. Although I have known Michael since I became a Trustee in 2003, it was really during the 2014-2015 school year that I got to know him on a personal level. Trustees and our entire system truly benefitted by having Michael accept the position of Interim Director of Education while Trustees carried on a search for a new Director. Michael's time and leadership were tremendous assets to us, and much appreciated. I was extremely pleased his name was among the nominees, because I believe he represents the best of Catholic education that this award was intended to recognize. This is such a well-deserved award."

-- **Manuel da Silva, Chair of the Board**

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education
w w w . w c d s b . c a

“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*

Related Links

[WCDSB Distinguished Graduate Award Honourees](#)

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](#).

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

John Shewchuk – Chief Managing Officer
(519) 578-3660 | john.shewchuk@wcdsb.ca