

PDK-UT

Outstanding Educator 2015

Gerry Connelly

Ontario is recognized as a world leader in education. All our citizens have benefitted by continuous system wide improvements combining excellence and equity. This has maximized opportunities for all learners. The power of education to improve community is endless. The lessons learned are critical for ourselves and others. How do we live up to this trust and ensure that the journey continues?

PDK-UT Chapter chooses Outstanding Educators that live up to this trust. The AGM, in honouring Gerry Connelly, provides us with an opportunity to meet her and gain insights into ensuring that the journey continues.

Gerry Connelly is Director of Policy and Knowledge Mobilization for The Learning Partnership and adjunct professor at York University.

She is the former Director of Education of the Toronto District School Board and Director of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch in the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Gerry's career includes teaching and administration in both rural and urban environments in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, the United States and Ontario, at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. She has also worked in South Africa, China and Estonia providing advice on inclusive schools, teaching and learning, curriculum development and second language learning.

Gerry serves on several boards including the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Humber College and Free the Children. She has also co-chaired the Sustainability and Education Academy which provided leadership training and support both nationally and internationally in the area of Education for Sustainable Development.

Gerry is the recipient of many awards including the Distinguished Educator Award from OISE/University of Toronto, the Government of Ontario Teacher Dedication Award by the Royal Conservatory of Music, Learning Through the Arts, the Ontario Supervisory Officers provincial award for Leadership in Public Education. Several other awards have acknowledged her commitment to equity, and community engagement. These include the City of Toronto Bob Marley Award, the Fraser Mustard Award and the University of Toronto Arbor Award. She is the recipient of the Science Teacher of the Year Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award as a Leader in Science.
