

Arbos
Award
Citations



Murray Wall

2019 Arbos Award for Contributions to the Professional Organization

It is only appropriate that Murray Wall be awarded the Arbos for Contributions to the Professional Organization.

Murray has seen the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation from a number of different perspectives in his roles as President of the Federation, as a member of the senior administrative staff, and in leading the collective bargaining unit. He was also a classroom teacher in a number of communities, focusing on senior math and science, in addition to being a long-time local association president.

During Murray's service as President of the Federation, which commenced in 2003, there was ample evidence of the tempered, yet determined and principled way in which he saw the province's teachers through a rather turbulent provincial collective bargaining process.

In his pre-election speech, Murray shared his vision that change should be evolutionary as opposed to revolutionary. That sort of measured approach also typified his work at the Federation. Always passionate about his work, Murray has traditionally preferred a calculated, analytical leadership style.

That was consistent with remarks he recently shared at the long-service awards ceremony when he indicated that his favourite memories are of "all the people I've met and time I have spent in schools." That includes Murray's international opportunities, including visiting schools and teachers in India, Ghana and Brazil, as part of his involvement at the Federation and as a member of the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors and International Trust Fund.

His long-standing involvement in teacher organizations also includes time spent as his local teachers' association president, professional development chair, LINC chair and Liaison Committee member.

Later, when he joined the senior administrative staff, you only had to accompany Murray on one of his frequent trips to northern Saskatchewan, when that was his region of coverage, to see the respect afforded by colleagues living and working in often remote communities. This not only speaks of Murray's compassion and empathy for teachers who may be facing considerable challenges, but it also underscores his resolve to be of assistance in any way possible.

Throughout his teaching career, and later while employed at the Federation, Murray's respect for history and traditions was always evident. He has an innate sense of what public education strives to be, adding that, "It's always fantastic to see teachers who are committed to students and who are working with them to help them succeed – that's really what education is all about."

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Murray completed high school at Evan Hardy Collegiate. He attended post-secondary institutes in British Columbia and Winnipeg, before completing bachelor of education, bachelor of science and master of education degrees from the University of Saskatchewan.

Murray is married to Lynnette and they have two daughters, Orisha and Sian. He enjoys the outdoors and one of his favourite pastimes is playing board games with family – not surprising, given his thoroughness and sense of curiosity. And perhaps one of the lesser known aspects of Murray's passions is his love of cooking. He says that vigorously chopping vegetables is a great stress reliever, along with the adventure of trying out new recipes. He has already expressed how retirement will afford him the opportunity to combine all of his loves: family time, good food, and fun and games.

As much as some things may change in Murray's daily life, the most important things will clearly endure.

The logo for the Arbos Award features the word "Arbos" in a blue, cursive script font, with the word "Award" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font directly below it.

Jerry Orban

2019 Arbos Award for Distinguished Support of Education and the Teaching Profession

Jerry Orban is being awarded the Arbos for Distinguished Support of Education and the Teaching Profession posthumously, after he passed away earlier this year at the age of 68.

While Jerry dedicated his life to education, spanning 45 years, many people might better know him from his highly decorated career as a player and, later, coach of the Regina Rams junior and university football programs.

Jerry was born in Lestock, Saskatchewan, and his family moved to Regina when he was three years old. He lived in Regina for most of his life, with the exception of one year in Vancouver where he attended and played university football at Simon Fraser.

He graduated from Martin Collegiate before pursuing his passion for education and sports. For 15 years, Jerry served as the Faculty of Education field placement manager at the University of Regina, prior to retiring in September 2018.

As respected as he was for his accomplishments in his chosen love of education, arguably his more far-reaching influence was during his time as a member of the Rams, who were ostensibly his second family, after having played and coached with the organization for more than 30 years.

It wasn't just a matter of the considerable success he garnered, but more so the unanimous agreement that he taught his players about the importance of teamwork, integrity and being a man of character. A number of his players have evolved to embrace their roles as teachers, coaches and community leaders.

Current Rams head coach Steve Bryce summed it up when learning of his passing and characterized Jerry as a "coach, teacher, mentor and friend."

"Jerry was a second father to hundreds of football players. He earned the respect and admiration of not only his position players, but also other position players and even opponents," said Bryce, who was coached by Jerry from 1987 to 1991.

"He modelled and conveyed the importance of dignity, class and integrity. He was a teacher who provided guidance, support and encouragement. He was an architect of young men and character. He was more than a great coach. He made a difference," Bryce suggested.

Aside from being part of eight national championships during his time with the Rams, he also helped mentor numerous players who went on to play at the professional level.

Jerry is survived by his wife Cindy, son Chris and two daughters, Ali and Joanne.

Jason Almond

2019 Arbos Award for Contributions to Education and the Teaching Profession

Whether in his role as a school administrator or pursuing his passion for coaching, the traits that people most associate with Jason Almond are his dedication and desire to help others. These attributes highlight precisely why Jason has been awarded the Arbos Award for Contributions to Education and the Teaching Profession.

Currently a vice-principal at Holy Rosary High School in Lloydminster, Jason has been a member of the Federation since 1992. During that time, he has been not only a teacher and administrator, but also an athletic director and active community volunteer.

Jason graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1992 with bachelor degrees in physical education and education. Prior to moving to administration, Jason was a physical education and math teacher for half of his career. He also spent five years as athletic director, which included coaching volleyball, basketball, badminton and track, while also assisting with football and announcing the games for good measure.

His profound interest in student success includes providing extra help for those struggling with math, but can just as likely include countless hours coaching or organizing extracurricular activities at the school, from sports to the arts. One of his enduring projects is the Athletic Director's Handbook that was developed during his time as North West District president. This handbook not only served as a guide for future athletic directors and coaches at Holy Rosary, but also for those across the district. In addition, he developed the Math 11 and 21 individual study programs before leaving Holy Rosary to become vice-principal at St. Mary's Elementary School. These math programs were designed to meet the needs of students who were not able to attend high school full time.

It's not just the students who appreciate Jason; he is also part of the problem-solving teams in Holy Rosary, bringing together solutions from various personnel to discuss success plans for students, discipline procedures and student assessments. This holistic approach has yielded success for students and teachers throughout the division. More recently, his involvements have included co-designing the division graduation review plan spanning the 2007-17 strategic review. Four years ago, he took on the role of college facilitator for the University of Saskatchewan teacher candidate interns, who were performing their extended practicums at Lloydminster Catholic School Division.

Jason's community involvement includes thousands of hours officiating hockey games. In 2019, he was honoured by the North East Zone "for being an official who demonstrates dedication, hard work and commitment to officiating and development of young officials in the zone and province."

He is also the faith leader in the school and oversees the organization's faith-based activities, including being responsible for all communication with the church, serving on both the pastoral parish council and the Lay Support Committee for Seminarians at St. Anthony's.

Jason is also the official "voice of the Raiders," volunteering countless hours announcing play-by-plays for the Raiders school football, basketball and volleyball games. But he's just as likely to be found helping out with drama and musical productions. And did I mention he's widely sought after to be master of ceremonies for various events?

No matter who you talk to, the invariable common denominator always comes back to Jason's compassion and kindness, characterized by a generous and giving presence through which he exemplifies leadership through service.

As one of his colleagues, Ashley Fullarton, summed up, "Jason Almond is the epitome of what it means to be dedicated to what you do. I'm very lucky to get the opportunity to work with Jason, and he is one of the reasons I'm very proud to be a Raider."

