

EDUCATION

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Teachers toast Kevin Manion

OSSTF honors Quinte Secondary English teacher

By Henry Bury

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As a teacher, Kevin Manion prides himself on the fact that he's trying to make a difference in students' lives.

It's that dedication not only in teaching students but also coach-

ing high school athletes for the past 27 years that has earned Manion "Teacher of the Year" honors from the Hastings division of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

The head of the English department at Quinte Secondary School is the ninth annual recipient of the OSSTF excellence in education award. The presentation was made Thursday evening at the federation's annual conference at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Manion said Friday he's hum-

bled by the award open to all high school teachers within the Hastings County Board of Education.

"It's an honor enough to be nominated for the award by my colleagues," said the 50-year-old Manion said. "You can't get a better honor in my mind."

But to win, he added, is "humbling. It's very significant recognition and I appreciate it."

Manion said he's enjoyed his 27 years in education.

"I happened into this job by chance and there's nothing I would have wanted to do during those years."

Manion spent his first eight years at Trenton High School and then 14 years at Belleville Collegiate Institute. When BCI closed, he moved to Quinte.

He was head of the English department at both BCI and now Quinte. He also taught physical education earlier in his career.

As a teacher, Manion said every day is different.

"I enjoy the interaction with students and being part of their lives over the course of five years in high school...it's the opportunity of making a difference in students' lives and that's a challenge," he said.

He learns from students as well. "I find I'm still learning. The point where I stop learning is the time to retire."

The key lesson he's learned in his career is "you never give up on students."

"I try to give students the benefit of doubt."



Intelligencer photo by Henry Bury

Quinte Secondary School English teacher Kevin Manion displays his Teacher of the Year plaque, Friday.

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