THE LEITHWOOD AWARD: 
THE OISE OUTSTANDING THESIS OF THE YEAR

Background

The Leithwood Award: the OISE OUTSTANDING THESIS OF THE YEAR is a cash award supported by fundraising on the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Ken Leithwood, and by the OISE Dean’s Office. The competition is open for doctoral theses in education completed at OISE between January 1 and December 31 in the year prior to the annual deadline on March 1st. Studies using any research approach (ethnographic, experimental, historical, survey, etc.) are encouraged. Each study will be assessed in light of this approach, the scholarly quality of the dissertation, and the significance of its contributions to knowledge in education.

This Award was created in 2003 under the auspices of Dr. Leithwood when he was Associate Dean of Research at OISE. During Dr. Leithwood’s long career at OISE, he supervised close to 90 doctoral dissertations. His graduates are now on the faculty of most Educational Administration programs in North America. His research on educational leadership and educational change has contributed to shaping theory, policy and practice in most jurisdictions in Canada, and indeed, across the English-speaking world. His work in England, the United States and Australia has guided the formation of policy on leadership development, educational reform, and teacher practice. In light of this close connection between Dr. Leithwood’s research and the practice of education across the country, and the exceptional work he has done with so many graduate students, and the high standards he has set for research in the academy, this award has been named in his honor. Funds contributed by his colleagues and his students will ensure that this award continue to celebrate the finest scholarly work in educational research in this country.

Purpose of Award

The purpose of the award is to recognize exceptional, stimulating, and cutting-edge research produced by doctoral students in the last phase of their graduate work. This award gives OISE an opportunity to celebrate the splendid quality and diversity of scholarly interests among our doctoral students.

Overview of Criteria

The major criterion for the award is research excellence. When assessing submissions, the review committee will pay special attention to: the significance of the problem and the conceptualization, design, and execution, as well as the quality of the written report. The nominee should demonstrate why the research is important, placing the work in a larger context and making a case for the significance of the work. Theses that combine theory and practice to inform relevant policy decisions will also be considered.

Submission Information

Each entry must include a Summary of Thesis (5-6 pages – 12 pt font, single spaced), a completed Application Form and a Letter of Recommendation from the faculty supervisor. The student’s department or program must endorse nominations. Applications must be received no later than March 1st for theses completed in the previous year (eg March 1, 2014 for theses completed in January-December 2013) and should be forwarded to the Research Office by mail at 252 Bloor St W, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6 or by email at OISE.research@utoronto.ca. Late applications will not be considered.
APPLICATION FORM

OUTSTANDING THESIS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Name: ________________________________

Department: __________________________

Email: _______________________________

Thesis Title: ___________________________

Brief Description of the Research:

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Date: ________________________________

Signature of Faculty Supervisor: ________________________________

Signature of Department Chair: ________________________________