

Teaching Excellence

Rocky Ieraci earns top marks from Prime Minister



Holy Names business and computer science teacher Rocky Ieraci helps a student with an assignment.

(Windsor, Ontario, Thursday May 5, 2017) – After three decades of teaching, Rocky Ieraci is feeling a little more justified about his decision to go into the profession.

“In the beginning, I wondered about whether I had made the right choice, but after 30 years, and after everything I’ve learned from my students, and after everything I’ve done, I know I made the right decision,” said Ieraci, who recently learned that he earned a Certificate of Achievement for the 2016-17 Prime Minister’s Awards for Teaching Excellence. “I feel very satisfied in the work that I’ve accomplished as a teacher.”

Inspired by the thinking of Edward de Bono, Ieraci – who began his career at F.J. Brennan Catholic High School in 1987 and moved to Holy Names after 10 years – integrates activities that promote critical thinking and is constantly looking for opportunities to keep students

engaged and current. His classes are infused with innovative curriculum units that bring computer simulations into business.

His outstanding achievements include:

- having his school achieve the status of one of the first Special High Skills Major Business schools in the province.
- seeing his students reaching top levels in business competitions, debates and presentations both locally and abroad.
- when the Apple Corporation wanted to introduce the Swift App design in more schools, leraci jumped on the opportunity to have his classroom equipped with dual platform Macs in order to introduce the coding curriculum.
- Having acquired a 3D printer for his classroom, leraci has led his students to partner with the e-Nableing the Future network. The program helps connect schools with 3D printers to underprivileged youth in need of a prosthesis.

Ieraci will be officially acknowledged for his award – which comes with \$1,000 to be used for professional development or other resources to improve learning – at a board meeting later this month.

Watch a video of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announcing the national awards here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LduF5mHiWjY>