

# Stu Conger Award in Career Counselling and Career Development, 2009

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**Recipient: Margie Layden-Oreto**

## Biography

To review Margie Layden-Oreto's resume is to review a straight trajectory of leadership in action. Early in her career as a school guidance counsellor, she initiated the first Parents' Talk Career Day, 90 parents presenting at round tables for students who had signed up according to their curiosity and interest – never done before and not only successful in itself but a prototype which was duplicated by schools across the province of New Brunswick.

Nurturing the important role that family plays in the career development of youth and young adults and engaging parents with their children in exploring their possible futures has been one of many issues which Margie has championed throughout her career.

Not to be satisfied with a school, Margie took on the whole province of New Brunswick and revolutionized the guidance and career development program in Anglophone schools. Under her leadership New Brunswick became the first province in Canada to implement a comprehensive and developmental guidance and counselling program as a part of regular curriculum.

With each career move, she took on more and more provincial and national leadership roles – chair of women's issues for the New Brunswick Teacher's Federation; Children and Poverty Committee member of the Canadian Teacher's Federation committee, New Brunswick Provincial Director for CCA, and a number of national steering committees.

Not to be satisfied with a province, Margie took on the role of Project manager for the Future to Discover pilot project sponsored by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the largest social demonstration project in education in Canada ever. She was responsible for all phases of the project in the province of New Brunswick and championed and supported the project in the province of Manitoba. Imagine if you will the challenge of getting grade 10, 11 and 12 students to participate in career development programs AFTER school and further to come to the grade 11 after school program with their parents in tow! Not many would have the temerity to undertake such a challenge. And she succeeded through team building, passionate vision, a prodigious work ethic, and determination and belief in the capacity for success of the province's youth.

The Future to Discover project is the first large-scale field-tested effort to determine the impact of enhanced career opportunities at the high school level. If the impact analysis is positive, (and the results will be released soon) Margie's leadership in this project could serve as the evidence for considerable improvements to career education within departments of education across Canada and beyond.

And not to be satisfied with two provinces, she has recently accepted the challenge of sharing the Future to Discover experience, research, programs and impacts with Departments of Education in all Canadian provinces and territories. She has now taken on the country!

These are remarkable examples of results based leadership in action. Margie Layden-Oreto has lived her life helping youth and young adults and she is one of these "helpers" par excellence!