

# Stu Conger Award in Career Counselling and Career Development, 2008

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## Recipient: Michel Turcotte

### Biography

For over 20 years, Michel has been a catalyst in advancing career development in Canada and internationally. He is committed to quality in career and employment services in his own professional practice and the influence of his commitment to professionalism extends from coast to coast and internationally.

Michel's leadership is evident in the key roles he played in the first pan-Canadian Symposium on Career Development, Public Policy and Workforce Development; the International Career Development and Public Policy Symposium movement initiated in Canada and now rotating globally; the Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners; and the forming of the Canadian Research Working Group for Evidence-Based Practice in Career Development.

These initiatives have not only altered the career development landscape in Canada but also have earned strong international respect including adoptions or adaptations of Canadian models by other countries.

Michel's leadership in professional associations is exemplary. From 2002-2005, and in 2006 and 2007, he was President of the guidance section of the Ordre des conseillers d'orientation et psychoéducateurs de Québec, the largest organization of professional career counsellors in Canada. He is on the Board of Directors of both the Canadian Counselling Association (CCA) and the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG). He is the current Chair of the Certification Committee of CCA.

Michel consistently turns challenges into opportunities with a leadership style that is simultaneously an ambassador and a coach. Whenever career development in Canada is challenged and appears to be heading into a recession, Michel applies optimism, strategic thinking and gentle bulldog tenacity and patience to keep the career development flame strong and growing. What is visible to the public may be his organization of meetings, presentations at conferences and professional association activities, but on a more invisible level, wherever there has been a major career development innovation or turnaround, there is almost always a part attributable to Michel's efforts and leadership.

Michel has a strong and sustained record of national and international impact in research, theory, innovation and professional practice. His leadership has had and will continue to have long-lasting impact on career development in Canada and internationally.