

# The Stu Conger Award for Leadership in Career Counselling and Career Development



Presented by the Canadian Career Development Foundation

The Stu Conger Award for Leadership in Career Counselling and Career Development is presented by the Canadian Career Development Foundation to honour the outstanding leadership provided by Stu Conger in promoting and advancing career development and career and employment counselling in Canada. Leadership represents that rare combination of vision, dedication, commitment, ability to mobilize others, and willingness to work hard. The Stu Conger Award for Leadership in Career Counselling and Career Development is given to individuals who exemplify those characteristics.

## Background

Throughout his long career, Stu Conger has held to the tenacious conviction that personal happiness and well-being depend to a large extent on the fullest development of people's individual talents and personal resources. He lived the belief that Canada's well-being as a nation was tied to the promotion of its human resources. In pursuit of this belief he directed his considerable energy to developing and supporting methods and programs of career development and employment counselling for use by a wide variety of individuals working in human service agencies.

Stu has demonstrated his creativity and leadership by formulating many new initiatives. While he was Assistant Director, Pilots Branch, Department of Regional Economic Expansion, he began the Canada NewStart Program, which he later continued as Executive Director of Saskatchewan NewStart Inc. This innovative program addressed the academic and life skill needs of educationally disadvantaged adults. As Director General, Employment Support Services, Employment and Immigration Canada, Stu professionalized employment counselling services at Canada Employment Centres. He developed job placement procedures and employer services which gained national and international recognition. Under his leadership, the first Canadian

computerized career exploration system was invented and a systematic and extensive, competency-based staff training program was developed and implemented for employment counsellors. In 1973, he created the first national forum for exchanging leading edge developments in career counselling, in the form of the National Consultation on Vocation and Counselling (NATCON).

For many years NATCON grew to be the foremost national meeting devoted to development and brought together close to a thousand practitioners each year to share research and program development initiatives and new advancements in service delivery.

Stu Conger was the first Executive Director of the Canadian Career Development Foundation, then called the Canadian Guidance and Counselling Foundation. In this position, he acquired 15 million dollars of grant and partnership funding money to create a network of innovative research and program development projects at Canadian colleges and universities. This ground-breaking national collaboration became known nationally and internationally as CAMCRY (Creation and Mobilization of Counselling Resources for Youth). The CAMCRY initiative gave Canada international recognition as a leader in the field of career counselling and career development.

He served as president of the Canadian Guidance and Counselling Association (now the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association), and he also served as vice-president of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance. Throughout his career, Stu Conger has expanded the limits of what was thought possible and has worked to overcome barriers to progress. He has provided direct leadership and at the same time has searched out, supported, and encouraged new talent in order to foster the continuing advancement of career counselling and career development in Canada. Stu Conger's contributions have been recognized by awards of merit from many professional associations in Canada.

## The Award

The Stu Conger Award for Leadership in Career Counselling and Career Development consists of a citation and gift for the recipient as well as a scholarship to be awarded to an individual selected by the recipient.

## Criteria

The selection committee will look for a clear indication of the leadership and achievement shown by the nominee. This may have taken the form of: innovative research, program development and implementation, outstanding contribution to the advancement of theory or practice, consistent evidence of exemplary teaching, and/or creative use of media such as print, audio, video, computers, or other electronic media. It may also take the form of outstanding leadership within an organization or association which is devoted to, or emphasizes, career counselling or other career development activities. Preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated leadership in more than one of the above areas, have shown sustained commitment as evidenced by the quantity and quality of their contributions and whose accomplishments have influenced and advanced the career development profession.

## Submission:

Each candidate for the award must be nominated by three individuals who are in a position to attest to the candidate's suitability. The nomination package must be coordinated by one of these individuals who will assemble the package, submit it electronically (where possible) and act as the contact person for the committee. The nomination package must include three letters of support, a current curriculum vitae of the candidate and a detailed statement presenting a case for the

award. The package must also include a signed letter from the nominated candidate indicating that he or she agrees to be nominated for the current and following year, has reviewed the nomination material and can attest to the accuracy of the facts presented and agrees that all nomination information can be made public at the discretion of the CCDF. Additional supporting information that cannot be sent electronically may be submitted by mail. Wherever possible, four copies of all accompanying documentation should be submitted.

## Timetable

Nominations are accepted until **September 30th**. Note that awards will be granted according to merit and there will not necessarily be a recipient each year.

## Send nominations to

Nominations should be submitted by **September 30<sup>th</sup>** to:

[information@ccdf.ca](mailto:information@ccdf.ca)

**Subject: Stu Conger Award**

## For inquiries:

For inquiries, contact the CCDF office at:

[information@ccdf.ca](mailto:information@ccdf.ca)

or

**Telephone: (613) 729-6164**

or

**Facsimile: (613) 729-3515**