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Media Advisory

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University of Ottawa Student Receives Inaugural Tate Herbert Memorial Post-Secondary Award

Suzie Bouchard has been awarded the inaugural Tate Herbert Memorial Post-Secondary Award from the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN). This annual award recognizes the exemplary contribution of a post-secondary student volunteer who has exceeded expectations and left an indelible mark on OJEN's justice education initiatives.

Logan Tate McKenzie Herbert, for whom the award is named, was enrolled in the Law and Society program at Wilfrid Laurier University when he lost his life to cancer in 2013 at the age of 20. A passionate advocate for a fair and accessible justice system, he was active in the Barrie community where he grew up and volunteered for several community causes. This award honours the dedication to justice and fairness for which Tate is remembered.



Among the hundreds of post-secondary students throughout the province who volunteer with OJEN each year, Suzie stood out as one of the most reliable, thoughtful, and dedicated. For two years, as a student at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, she made valuable contributions to OJEN's justice education initiatives.

As a Project Officer sitting on the OJEN Ottawa Regional Committee, she brought forward important Francophone issues and showed great leadership in French language programming.

She organized fellow law students at the University of Ottawa to run OJEN projects such as OJEN on the Air, in which high school law students research legal issues, interview legal experts, and produce radio segments on those topics. An ambitious project with many logistical and educational challenges, she met and exceeded these challenges, and the work generated under her leadership will serve as a model for this project in the future.

In October 2014, Suzie planned and delivered the Persons Day Event with the Department of Justice in Ottawa. With minimal staff support, she executed a wonderful project in which girls from local high schools connected with female legal professionals and explored issues of diversity and the law.

Suzie worked with OJEN's Francophone Program Manager to design a new project about linguistic rights in Canada. This new justice education initiative represents an invaluable expansion of our current offerings to law and civics teachers, and we look forward to piloting it soon.

In all of her work, Suzie showed exemplary professionalism and skill. She is a deserving recipient for the Tate Herbert Memorial Post-Secondary Award.

The Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) was established in 2002 by the three Chief Justices of the Ontario courts. It provides opportunities for youth in Ontario to develop meaningful connections with the justice system. Supported by local OJEN committees and thousands of justice sector volunteers, OJEN's programs and resources impacted over 200,000 youth last year alone. Facilitating dialogue among young people and justice professionals is the core of OJEN's programming and central to its goal of building a civil society and legally capable citizens.

In addition, OJEN supports youth workers and teachers of high school Law and Civics with institutes, symposia and a range of professional development opportunities that give individuals working with youth insight into current issues in justice education. Hundreds of case summaries, mock hearing scenarios, and teacher guides have been developed and made available to teachers free of charge. OJEN's website is a clearing house for information and resources.

For more information visit www.ojen.ca.

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A civil society through education and dialogue
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