

**Claude Kasman's acceptance speech after receiving  
the Ellis H. Champlin Award.  
November 16, 2011**

**IT IS TRULY AN HONOR TO RECEIVE THE ELLIS H. CHAMPLIN AWARD TONIGHT. I AM THOROUGHLY HUMBLLED AND GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD.**

**I REVIEWED THE PAST RECEIPIENTS AND IT IS A PRIVLIGE TO BE LISTED AMONGST THEM, LLOYD, RON AND DENNIS, WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT, THEY HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND ARE OUTSTANDING ROLE MODELS AND LEADERS IN OUR PROFESSION.**

**MANY OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT, RECALL MY SPEECH OF A COUPLE YEARS AGO OF BEING AN IMMIGRANT CHILD FROM ARGENTINA, GRANDSON OF EASTERN EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS. WHY DO I REFERNCE THIS AGAIN, WELL, THE LATEST FOCUS ON THE COMMON CORE REMINDS ME OF HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS FOR ME TO ACCLIMATE TO A NEW COUNTRY AND A NEW LANGUAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. HOWEVER VERY QUICKLY I DISCOVERED THAT PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAS THE ONE SUBJECT AREA THAT I LOOKED FORWARD TO EVERYDAY. WE HAD PE EVERYDAY IN NYC BACK THEN, AND I BELIEVE THEY STILL DO FOR THE MOST PART. PE LEVELED THE PLAYING FIELD AND ALLOWED MY FELLOW CLASSMATES TO SEE ME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. PHYSICAL EDUCATION, FOR ME, BECAME THE ULTIMATE EQUALIZER.**

**ALSO, PLAYING AFTER SCHOOL IN THE SCHOOL YARD WAS AN EDUCATION ON TO ITSELF, HOWEVER IT ALSO ALLOWED ME TO SOCIALIZE WITH MY FELLOW CLASSMATES. I PICKED UP THE LANGUAGE QUITE QUICKLY, WHICH INCLUDED STREET LANGUAGE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.**

**I AM SURE UNBEKNOWNEST TO THE PE TEACHER BACK THEN, PE LESSONS ENCOMPASSED AND PROMOTED THE DOMAINS THAT ARE SO RELEVANT TO US TODAY.**

**FROM A PSYCHOMOTOR PERSPECTIVE, I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE QUITE FLUID IN MY FINE AND GROSS MOTOR MOVEMENTS. I RECALL THE PE TEACHER HAVING US PRACTICE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, EMPHASIZING REPETITION, REPETITION, REPETITION, OF THE SKILLS, WHETHER THEY WERE FINE MOTOR OR GROSS MOTOR SKILLS.**

**FROM A COGNITIVELY PERSPECTIVE, THOUGH I DIDN'T YET KNOW THE LANGUAGE, I WAS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY IN UNDERSTANDING RULES AND STRATEGIES OF GAMES WE PLAYED. I REMEMBER BEING TESTED ON THE VARIOUS PE UNITS AND DOING WELL.**

**FROM AN AFFECTIVE PERSPECTIVE, I GOT ALONG WITH OTHERS. I GUESS I WAS A NOVELTY BEING THE ONLY IMMIGRANT PERSON IN THE CLASS. MY CLASSMATES LIKED PLAYING WITH ME AND I COOPERATED WITH AND LISTENED TO TEACHER INSTRUCTION AND DIRECTIVES. I WAS A GOOD CLASSMATE AND TEAMATE.**

**IN OUR LIVES IT IS SERENDIPITIS HOW THINGS SOMETIMES COME FULL CIRCLE.**

**AS AN HE/PE ADMINISTRATOR TODAY I REALIZE THAT HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION ARE MORE IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT THAN EVER BEFORE. WE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE HOW VALUABLE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION ARE. THE CURRENT OBESITY EPIDEMIC, AND THE FOCUS ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN OUR COUNTRY, HAS PRODUCED THE PERFECT STORM FOR OUR FIELD, IN A GOOD WAY.**

**I ALSO BELIEVE THE FACE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IS CHANGING, AND NEEDS TO CHANGE AND THAT IS ALSO GOOD. TEACHING TEAM & INDIVIDUAL SPORTS IN PE HAS ITS' PLACE HOWEVER IT MUST BE BALANCED WITHIN THE CURRICULUM. I BELIEVE THE EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON TEACHING STUDENTS THE VALUE OF LIFELONG PERSONAL FITNESS AND WELLNESS.**

**IT IS OUR CHALLENGE AS HEALTH & PE ADMINISTRATORS TO LEAD OUR TEACHERS IN UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF TEACHING QUALITY HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS.**

**SO, HOW DO WE DO THAT? WE DO THAT BY LEADING OUR TEACHERS IN PROVIDING THEM WITH A CURRICULUM THAT FOCUSES ON ACHIEVING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, NOT JUST EMPHASIZING ACTIVITY.**

**THE FOCUS AND EMPHASIS NEEDS TO AND MUST BE PLACED ON GOALS/OBJECTIVES RATHER THAN ACTIVITY. TO BORROW FROM COMMISSIONER KING, WE NEED TO BE "AN INCH WIDE AND FOOT DEEP, AS OPPOSED TO A FOOT WIDE AND AN INCH DEEP"**

**OR, TO SIMPLIFY FURTHER, OUR STUDENTS MUST NOT BE "JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTERS OF NONE".**

**WE NEED TO LEAD OUR TEACHERS IN UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY NEED TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THEIR LESSON PLANNING, THAT THEY NEED TO TEACH TO THOSE GOALS, AND THEY NEED TO GATHER EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING BY MEASURING AND COLLECTING DATA. THE BIG WORD WE HAVE AVOIDED IN PE-ASSESSMENTS! SOMETHING WE HAVE BEEN REMISS IN INCORPORATING IN PE, WE NEED TO AND MUST DO ASSESSMENTS IN PE. IT WILL IMPROVE INSTRUCTION!**

**WE MUST IMPLORER OUR TEACHERS THAT STUDENTS NEED TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY AND PROFICIENCY IN SKILLS TAUGHT. THOSE SKILLS MUST ENCOMPASS THE PSYCHOMOTOR, COGNITIVE AND AFFECTIVE DOMAINS. THE SAME 3 DOMAINS THAT ENABLED ME TO ASSIMILATE AND ACCLIMATE TO LIFE IN A NEW COUNTRY IT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE, NOR CREDITBLE FOR HE/PE TEACHERS AND/OR ADMINSTRATORS TO STATE- "WE'RE IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE SAY SO". WE MUST SHOW IT! WE MUST PROVE IT!**

**I TRULY BELIEVE THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR HEALTH & PE, WE NEED TO EMBRACE AND SIEZE THE MOMENT.**

**I BELIEVE I AM RECEIVING THIS AWARD TONIGHT, LARGELY FOR THE INITIATIVE THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE DEVELOPED AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN THE NEAR FUTURE; THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK FOR CURRENT AND ASPIRING ADMINISTRATORS OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND DANCE.**

**THEREBY I WOULD BE NEGILENT IF I DIDN'T THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE MY 3 COLLEAGUES WHO WORK WITH ME ON THIS INITATIVE AND WHO ARE PRESENT TONIGHT, JUDY CUMMINGS, BILL GROTH AND DR. JAMES WRIGHT, IF NOT FOR THEIR INSIGHT, COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT I WOULD NOT BE RECEIVING THIS AWARD. I TRULY FEEL THIS AWARD IS OUR AWARD AND I GRATEFULLY AND HUMBLBY ACCEPT IT ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US**

**THANK YOU**