

BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER RECEIVES RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION AWARD

Niagara Catholic Director of Education John Crocco is extremely proud to recognize Antonio Gambale, a teacher at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, who has received a *Difference Maker Award* from the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Mr. Gambale, Program Chair of Canadian and World Studies and Social Sciences at Blessed Trinity, is one of five Canadian teachers to be recognized this year, and the only Ontario recipient of the award. He was nominated by a former student who was so inspired by his teaching that she became a teacher herself.

In her nomination form, Chelsea Weir noted the impact Mr. Gambale had on her not only as a student, but as a student-teacher.

She described Mr. Gambale as being guided by two principles – accessibility and inclusivity – who encourages students to embrace academic excellence, their identity and become the best versions of themselves. Weir also acknowledged many of the initiatives Mr. Gambale has led at Blessed Trinity, including Orange Shirt Day, Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Black History Month and participation in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative.

“In my years of teaching, I have never seen anything like it,” she said. “The genuine impact he has had on students is indescribable.”

Director of Education John Crocco congratulated Mr. Gambale on behalf of the Niagara Catholic community.

“We are so very proud of Tony Gambale for receiving this Canada-wide award,” said Mr. Crocco. “Tony has inspired many students throughout his teaching career, and we are all exceptionally proud of him for this accomplishment.”

Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 20,000 students throughout Niagara, from Kindergarten through graduation.

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