



EXPERT IN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH, DR. BRUCE FERGUSON, SPEAKS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CHATHAM-KENT AND SARNIA-LAMBTON

Dr. Bruce Ferguson, a recognized expert in the field of youth mental health, spoke to secondary school students in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton on Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

“School communities in both ends of the district have been touched by the loss and pain of suicide,” says Paul Wubben, Director of Education for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. “Dr. Ferguson offered some real and practical steps in helping students to recognize when they, or their friends, need help.”

“We are grateful that Dr. Ferguson accepted our invitation to speak to student representatives in Chatham and Sarnia,” says Jim Costello, Director of Education for the Lambton Kent District School Board. “His remarks to them were a significant step in helping to address an issue that is important to all of us.”

Dr. Ferguson is Director of the Community Health Systems Resource Group (CHSRG) at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. He is also a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He has taught psychology at Carleton University and received his doctorate in Psychology at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Ferguson works to build networks and improve systems of care and support for children and families. He is an advocate for children and youth and created the CHSRG in an effort to advocate for the implementation of evidence-based interventions and standardized outcome measurement in health, mental health, social services and education and to promote and facilitate integration and collaboration in service delivery.

The event was organized by the Lambton Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board with the support of the Youth Mental Health Partnership, an organization of community-based mental health support agencies and organizations from across Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton. The Youth Mental Health Partnership was formed last spring at the invitation of the school boards, to help increase inter-agency communication and awareness of services.

In the photo above, are students of UCC with (LEFT) Paul Wubben, Director of Education, St. Clair Catholic District School Board; Dr. Bruce Ferguson (CENTRE) and Gerri Brown, Principal of Ursuline College (RIGHT).