

May 11, 2018

Dear AIR Colleagues,

In higher education, we focus a lot on helping our students develop a “sense of belonging,” but most people, student or not, want to be part of a community. I am truly thankful to be part of this wonderful AIR community of smart, fun people who are committed to supporting student, faculty, and staff success, and who thus contribute to making the world a better place.

For nearly all of my adult life, I have worked at The Ohio State University, and, in 1998, I joined what is now our Office of Institutional Research and Planning. While it is true that there is no single, clear path to institutional research, my path may be even more unlikely than most. After high school, I didn’t go to right to college. Instead, I was married and had my first child by the time I was 21 and started working at Ohio State as a typist after finally passing my typing test on the third try!

Like many institutions, Ohio State has a great tuition benefit for its staff, and I was able to complete my degrees one class a term on my lunch hour. I am forever grateful that my supervisors were always willing to have my lunch hour be whatever time my class was offered. Over time, I was able to take on progressively more responsible positions at Ohio State, working in an academic department, a college dean’s office, and in other offices with missions ranging from academic advising to space and facilities planning. This background has provided me with a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the university than I believe I could have gained in almost any other way.

I am also grateful to my university for providing me with the opportunity to attend and then become involved in various capacities with AIR. I am enormously grateful for the many wonderful opportunities AIR has provided me to learn and grow in my institutional research career. From the first time I presented at an Annual Forum to my years on the AIR Board and on through today, I have been and continue to be surrounded by supportive colleagues who challenge me to think harder and better.

Thank you to the AIR Board of directors and to my colleagues who nominated me for this award; thank you to the IR community for making me feel welcome and valued; and thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve this truly wonderful association.

Sincerely,

Julie Carpenter-Hubin

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning