



May 15, 2020

Dear AIR Colleagues:

To say that I am humbled, and very grateful, to receive the Association for Institutional Research Outstanding Service Award, is an understatement. I am truly honored and equally surprised to receive this recognition. My years of involvement with AIR have been exceptionally rewarding and meaningful for me, professionally and personally.

I was fortunate that my first supervisor in institutional research, Elizabeth Fox, was very involved in AIR and the Southern Association for Institutional Research. Through her pushing this baby bird out of the nest, I fell into an incredibly supportive and rewarding professional environment. To be honest, I do not recall my first role as an organizational volunteer. What I do remember is that all of my involvement enriched my professional growth and my personal life from the very beginning.

One of the most meaningful things about being engaged in professional associations is the opportunity to work alongside giants in the field, to learn from them, and to be mentored by them. I am always impressed at how willing these colleagues were to share their time, expertise, and friendship with me. There are so many who have invested in my professional development over the years, too many to name. But I am grateful to each and every one of them.

My involvement in AIR also provided me with the opportunity to meet newcomers as they entered the field. Many of these individuals have become involved as leaders in AIR and other IR associations. I only hope that, in some small way, I may have influenced someone to choose to give back, just as I was once given opportunity and encouragement.

Serving in various capacities in the Alabama Association for Institutional Research, SAIR, and AIR, and membership in the Northeast Association for Institutional Research, has afforded me the chance to get to know and work with many extremely talented individuals. In each organization my colleagues were wise, unselfish, and committed to making the association they served the best it could be. I am honored to have worked with such outstanding people. Also, staff members at the AIR Executive Office have always been great partners in achieving the ends of the Association.

My 30+ years of involvement in AIR has been richly rewarding. I consider my AIR colleagues as longtime friends. Through all of our collective efforts, I believe that AIR is a strong organization that meets, and exceeds, the professional needs of its members and beyond. I hope that there are many to follow who will experience the incredible rewards of involvement in this outstanding organization.

Thank you, AIR, for this wonderful recognition and for all you have meant to me over the years. I will cherish this award, and my association with AIR, always. I wish continued professional success and personal enrichment for all those involved now and in the future of this great organization.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abbie Bailey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Gratefully,".