

April 15, 2021

Dear AIR Colleagues,

Thank you! Not only am I a little surprised but I am very honored and grateful to receive the Association for Institutional Research Outstanding Service Award. My involvement with AIR in various capacities has been meaningful and fun for me both professionally and personally.

I started in Institutional Research by accident, and I am sure I am not the only one to say this. My dream was to be an astronaut but never was accepted into training. Although, this is the year I am going to Space Camp! I was an almost graduated graduate student looking for a job and saw an ad that looked interesting. Who knew it would turn into a career?

However, I had an incredibly supportive supervisor who allowed me to work and participate in groups that a young institutional researcher probably would not have been exposed to. In addition, I was fortunate to have a mentor, Fred Lillibridge, who guided me, advised me, and helped me get started with my involvement with AIR and helped me professionally. There have been others who have helped guide me professionally and I am truly thankful to you all.

My very first involvement with AIR came one month into my new profession when my supervisor told me that the AIR Forum was going to be in Albuquerque, we were part of the local arrangements committee, and it was my job to schedule all the pre-conference workshops for the conference that were going to happen on our campus.

As a member of AIR and a few other professional associations, I remember engaging with those who were far more experienced than I was and feeling somewhat awed. Being able to learn from them and just have a conversation was wonderful and I looked forward to AIR forums and events. No one ever seemed unwilling to impart their knowledge and expertise when asked.

Having served in various capacities in the RMAIR (Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research) and NMAIRP, I have met and worked along side some truly talented individuals who all volunteered their time to make the associations the best it could be.

My 25 years in institutional research and involvement with AIR has been wonderful and rewarding. Many AIR colleagues are also friends. I can only hope that in some way, my involvement helped encourage another to also get involved and I hope they have just as a rewarding experience as I have had.

Thank you again for this recognition.

