



Nomination Package (Posthumous) for the John Stecklein Distinguished Member Award for...

Edward L. Delaney, Jr.

Past President and Member, Emeritus, AIR

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Contact Information for Nominee Widow

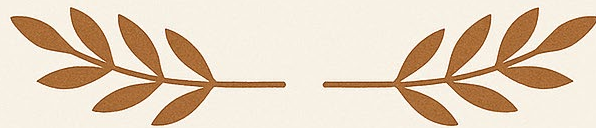
Elizabeth L. "Betty" Anderson, Ph.D.
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Trappe, Maryland, 21673
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Contact Information for Nominator

Victor M. H. Borden, Ph.D.
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NOMINATION LETTER





INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Educational Leadership
and Policy Studies

January 12, 2026

Awards and Scholarship Committee
Association for Institutional Research

Dear Colleagues,

It is with profound honor and gratitude that we nominate **Dr. Edward L. Delaney, Jr.** for AIR's *John E. Stecklein Distinguished Member Award*. As former colleagues and past AIR awardees, we are privileged to celebrate the life and legacy of our departed friend, whose contributions to AIR and the profession of institutional research remain enduring and transformative.

Ed was not only a leader but also a source of warmth and humanity. His presence helped make AIR a welcoming community, and his leadership was marked by both vision and joy—qualities remembered fondly, even in moments of celebration that carried well into the night.

The depth of Ed's impact is perhaps best captured in AIR's memorial upon his passing:

“Dr. Edward L. Delaney Jr., a distinguished figure in the field of institutional research and a dedicated member of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), passed away on August 14, 2024, at the age of 79. His career was marked by significant contributions that have left an enduring impact on higher education and the institutional research community... His vision and leadership not only shaped the direction of the association but also advanced the profession as a whole.”

Ed's leadership was pivotal during a transformative period for AIR. He served as President during a critical stage in the association's evolution, strengthened professional development programming, and even personally funded a scholarship to support member travel. These contributions reflect his deep commitment to advancing both the association and its members.

Beyond these formal achievements, Ed's greatest legacy lies in the people he nurtured. He hired and mentored countless young professionals, myself among them. His guidance in my first post-graduate position introduced me to the IR profession and the AIR community, and his encouragement shaped my trajectory as both a professional and a leader. His affection for AIR was contagious, inspiring those around him to invest in the association's future with equal passion.

This nomination is accompanied by letters of support from several distinguished AIR members. Together, we affirm that Ed Delaney deserves to be formally recognized as one of the true leaders of our profession—an exemplar whose vision, generosity, and humanity embody the spirit of this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victor M. H. Borden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victor" and last name "Borden" being the most prominent parts.

Victor M. H. Borden, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA)

Past President and Member Emeritus, Association for Institutional Research



LETTERS
OF
SUPPORT



Association for Institutional Research
2241 North Monroe St PMB 1413
Tallahassee, FL 32303

January 7, 2026

Dear Colleagues

It is an honor to write this letter of recommendation for the 2026 John Stecklein Distinguished Member award for Dr. Edward Delaney. It also comes with great sadness to write this letter and, hopefully, have Ed receive this award posthumously. Ed was a long-serving AIR member who contributed greatly to the Institutional Research profession. Ed was truly a gentleman who gave greatly to our community. He served as AIR President from 1992–1993, AIR Forum Chair for the 1990 AIR Forum, and as an NCES/AIR Senior Fellow from 2004 to 2006. Ed's contributions to the Association were officially recognized in 2008 when he received the Outstanding Service Award.

Ed was also deeply committed to our community, and he generously supported our profession by establishing The Edward Delaney Scholarship. As was Ed's passion, the scholarship was designed to support the professional development of young IR professionals. The goal of the scholarship is to facilitate the professional growth and development of early-career institutional research professionals by providing financial assistance to attend the AIR Forum. Since its establishment, the fund has supported numerous professionals who would otherwise be unable to attend the Forum, enabling them to enhance their individual growth.

Throughout his career, Ed made numerous scholarly contributions to our profession. He served since its establishment. Professor and Assistant Vice President for Planning and Research. During his tenure at George Mason, Ed had numerous publications and presentations within the Institutional Research community. One such publication from this period was an article in *New Directions* published with Dr. Victor Borden, entitled - *Information Support for Group Decisions*.

Beyond his scholarly contributions, Ed was a mentor to numerous IR professionals. And above all, Ed was simply put, a caring, nurturing, and welcoming member of our profession and that was perhaps his greatest contribution. I cannot think of a more deserving tribute to our colleague than to posthumously award the 2026 John Stecklein Distinguished Member award to Dr. Edward Delaney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Coughlin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Mary Ann Coughlin
Emeritus, Provost & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Springfield College
AIR Past President (2007-2008)
2018 John Stecklein Distinguished Member Award

January 12, 2026

Awards and Scholarship Committee
Association for Institutional Research

Dear Colleagues

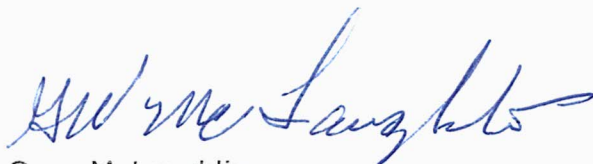
This letter is in support of Dr Edward I. Delaney's nomination for the posthumous recognition of Distinguished Member of the Association for Institutional Research.

This support is based on my personal experience of his leadership and his professional contributions. He provided a visibility of our profession, especially in his dealings with the federal agencies. This contribution was facilitated by the leadership he provided in senior positions at George Mason University. This leadership was also recognized by the Department of Education when he was made a Senior Fellow of NCES.

This support for his nomination is also based on my personal experiences with him as he shared his skill in D.C. with our profession and with the Association. In doing so he strengthened our Association's ability to bridge between the federal agencies and our institutions. Also in doing so he mentored numerous members of our profession.

He also used this ability to explain to those outside our profession how we can contribute to higher education and to the success of our institutions of higher education.

I feel that his selection to this honor supports our commitment to excellence. I hope you will agree.



Gerry McLaughlin
Emeritus Assoc VP, DePaul University
Past President, Association for Institutional Research

January 6, 2026

Members of the AIR Nominating Committee:

I am writing to support the nomination of Edward Delaney for the posthumous awarding of AIR's Stecklein Distinguished Member award.

Ed's career and AIR interests were the definition of what a distinguished member ought to be, innovative in moving the practice of institutional research to the center of planning for the emergence of George Mason University as an urban research institution, central to the development of AIR as a major continuing education organization and keeper of the faith of the "old" AIR, a group of friends who found themselves with strong professional ties.

Ed's professional and personal history are documented elsewhere in this nomination. Ed was my friend, my boss, and favorite sailing companion. I miss his laughter.

Sincerely

Terrence Russell, PhD

Stecklein Distinguished Member and Executive Director Emeritus



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Awards and Scholarship Committee
Association for Institutional Research
January 5, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I write to add my strong support to the nomination of Edward L. Delaney for AIR's John E. Stecklein Distinguished Member Award. Albeit posthumously, your decision to bestow the Stecklein Award to Dr. Delaney would be highly deserving.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Ed early in my career in Institutional Research and in AIR. At the time of our first meeting, I believe Ed served as a Professor and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Educational Transformation at George Mason University. While he was serving as a Senior Fellow at NCES, I had the pleasure of working with him in the AIR Summer Institutes (Ed served in a general coordinating role for PDS) as well as interacting with him on various AIR committees. In all of our interactions, Ed stood out immediately. Tall and commanding, excited about data and academic planning, yet with a gentle spirit and soft voice, Ed represented the field of IR with passion and dedication.

Ed's impact on the field of IR went well beyond me. He was dedicated to AIR and helped make the Association a welcoming community for all. He served as a leader in many ways, including serving as Forum Chair in 1990 and AIR President in 1992-93. It is noteworthy that he personally funded a scholarship to support member travel to the Forum. His numerous contributions reflect his commitment to the Association and its members.

As a former Stecklein Distinguished Member Awardee, I'm familiar with the criteria and qualities required for consideration of this award. I'm deeply honored to have been selected, and I know that Dr. Ed Delaney certainly meets and exceeds the expectations. He deserves to be formally recognized with this honor, and would be a welcomed addition to the select group of colleagues who have been honored with this award.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Webber

Karen L. Webber, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, McBee Institute of Higher Education, UGA
Past President and Member Emeritus, Association for Institutional Research

Richard D. Howard
Rdhoward0713@gmail.com
(406) 581-5110

January 12, 2026

Awards and Scholarship Committee
Association for Institutional Research

Dear Colleagues,

I write this letter in support of **Dr. Edward L. Delaney, Jr's** nomination for *AIR's John E. Stecklein Distinguished Member Award*. As both a personal friend and professional colleague, I am both pleased and honored to support his nomination. His personal professional contributions to both Association and his colleagues truly warrant this award.

I first worked with Ed when as Associate Forum Chair he and I (Forum Chair) put together the schedule for speakers at the Forum held in Baltimore. Ed's understanding of the role of institutional research in support of planning and decision making, significantly enhanced the sequence of the Forum's presentations. He was easy to work with and positively impacted the quality of that year's Forum. The next year he served as Forum Chair and was elected Vice President and President several years later. His leadership of the Association was indeed significant, having a positive influence on future Association leaders.

In addition to his contributions in elected roles, Dr. Delaney's contributions to the Association have contributed significantly to the growth of a number of beginning professional by supporting they attendance to the AIR Forum. This support has enabled a number of beginning institutional research professionals to both learn about the role the Association can play in support of institutional research on campuses, but also introduced these your professionals to the important role of collegial support in their campus institutional research roles.

I am honored to support Dr. Edward L. Delaney, Jr for the Distinguished Member Award. His contributions to the role of institutional research and leadership of the Association were significant and continue today.

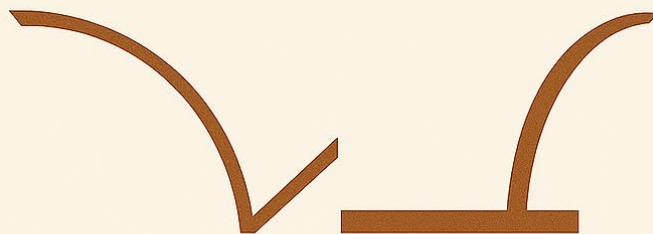
Sincerely

Richard D. Howard

Richrd D. Howard
President, 1994-1995
Distinguished Member, 2005
Forum Chair, 1989



EDWARD L.
DELANEY, JR.
RÉSUMÉ



EDWARD L. DELANEY

SUMMARY

Dr. Edward Delaney is an accomplished educator, consultant and administrator with an earned doctorate and more than forty five years of university teaching, research and administrative experience. He is recognized for his expertise in organizational development, strategic planning, public and non-profit administration, project management, and public policy analysis. His proficiencies include grants development and management, program evaluation, institutional research, policy analysis, human resource planning and organizational finance and budgeting. He has well developed writing, presentation and group facilitator skills.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Ph.D. Higher Education and Organizational Studies, New York University - 1976
- M.A. Human Relations and Social Policy, New York University - 1972
- M.A. Adult Education, Manhattan College, New York - 1970
- S.T.L. Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain - 1967

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2003-Present Strategic Planning & Public Policy Consultant, Strategic Analyses, Trappe, MD
- 2004-2006 NCES Senior Fellow, US Dept. of Education, Washington, DC
- 1997-2004 Executive Vice President/CEO, Wildfowl Trust of North America
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Grasonville, Maryland
- 1995-1998 Professor & Senior Fellow, Deputy Director, Institute for Educational Transformation
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
- 1986-1995 Professor & Asst Vice President for Planning and Research,
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
- 1968-1986 Various faculty and administrative appointments at other colleges and universities.

NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Available upon request.

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

- Distinguished Emeritus Member, Association for Institutional Research 1976-Present
(President 1992-93 & Distinguished Service Award 2002)
- Member, Board of Directors, Shore Leadership, 2002-2006, Class of 2000 Participant
- Member, Board of Directors, Waterfowl Chesapeake, Easton, Maryland (2012- 2020
(Board Member & Secretary, Waterfowl Festival 2004-2011)
- Member, Talbot Country Club (1999- Present)
- Member, Tred Avon Yacht Club (2003- Present)