

May 15, 2018

Colleagues,

I am extremely honored to be receiving the 2018 John Stecklein Distinguished Member Award. This recognition and award means so much to me for two reasons. First, I am extremely humbled when I review the names of previous award recipients. On this list are many colleagues and friends that I hold in high esteem. And each individual on the list represents the best of our association. I am honored to have my name added to that list. Secondly, the award is meaningful because it represents you our AIR members. AIR is a network of colleagues who support one another and strive to improve the success and experiences of students at our higher education institutions. To know that I have been nominated and supported for such a prestigious award by our membership is truly humbling.

Throughout the years, I have offered too many workshops and trainings to count! But that is mostly about longevity. I would like to take this moment to thank all of you who have participated in those workshops. I continue to lead workshops and offer sessions, because, through every session, I gain so much from each participant. The questions you ask and the conversations that we have about various applications or issues at your institutions adds to my knowledge and expands my thinking.

Early in my career, I was encouraged by AIR colleagues to offer more workshops and pursue leadership opportunities. To those who encouraged and pushed me along the way I say thank you. Thank you for all the friends and colleagues I have added to my life through the journey and thank you for all the wonderful opportunities that AIR has provided to me. Of course, when these opportunities arise, there are always sacrifices that need to be made and support that needs to be provided. So, I would like to say thank you to those who have supported me. First, Springfield College -- my supervisors and colleagues have always supported me and allowed me to serve; which is a feat that is not easy at a small not-for-profit institution where each faculty and staff member wears multiple hats! Second and most importantly, I want to recognize and thank my wife, Keri. She is a private person who would rather not be recognized, but in a moment like this when I

reflect back on my career, I know that I could not have accomplished everything that I have done without her love and support. She is my partner and my better half, she keeps me grounded, balanced, sane, and most importantly deals with mischievous dogs when I am travelling.

As I wrap up this letter of thanks, I would like to encourage every member of our association to pay it forward. We are a better and stronger association, when we support one another. So, if I have helped you, by teaching an IPEDS or statistics workshop, leading a session at the Holistic Seminar, Foundations or Statistics Institutes, or by providing a Forum session, I encourage you to thank me by paying it forward. Volunteer to serve your association, submit a proposal for a poster presentation, forum session, serve on a committee or run for elected office. Trust me you will gain more from your participation than you give!

Thank you again, I am truly humbled and honored to receive the 2018 John Stecklein Distinguished Member Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mary Ann Coughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Ann Coughlin, D.P.E
Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs
AIR Past-President