May 13, 2015

Educational Audiology Association Board of Directors;

Please accept this letter of nomination for Dr. Linda Thibodeau for the Frederick S Berg award. As described, this award is presented “to an individual who has made notable contributions to the field of Educational Audiology on a national level.” Dr. Thibodeau’s professional work history supports this prerequisite.

Dr. Thibodeau began her research career with an emphasis on speech recognition of hearing-impaired listeners. Her research has now expanded to include content related to the efficacy of aural (re)habilitation strategies, assistive technology, and speech recognition in noise. This has led to +20 refereed articles and +10 book chapters directly related to the diagnosis and treatment of infants, children and students. Because of her knowledge in these areas, she has gained recognition as a national/international speaker, where she has given +100 oral presentations on topics related to the area of educational audiology. This does not include the hundreds of abstracts and oral presentations that she also has consulted on and submitted for various conferences and specialized meetings. She has proven, with no doubt, to be a leader in providing evidence-based practices for children and adolescents with hearing needs in educational settings.

Further confirmation of Dr. Thibodeau’s passion for helping children with hearing difficulties, can be found in her record for receiving external funding. For example, Dr. Thibodeau was co-investigator in a grant funded for 1.2 million dollars from the National Institute of Deafness and other Communicative Disorders. This grant compared a variety of language intervention programs and included children with disorders related to hearing.

I have always felt that professionals who solely conduct research and are not practitioners, really miss important issues that arise for those audiologists and staff that provide direct services. Despite Dr. Thibodeau’s demands as an instructor and researcher, she continues to remain active in educational and clinical endeavors. Currently, she consults as an educational audiologist for six school districts, along with direct involvement in an array of other clinical sites.

Although membership and activity is not a requirement of this award, it is worthy to note that Dr. Thibodeau has been a long standing supporter of the Educational Audiology Association. She currently serves on the Scholarship Committee for this organization and has so since 2007.

In our field, it is not only important for researchers to share their knowledge and experiences, but to do so in a manner of mutual respect. Despite her notoriety, I have found Dr. Thibodeau to be extremely approachable and personable. She is always willing to answer questions and give individual attention to those she is conversing with. These personal attributes reflect the qualities of a true leader in our field.

The contributions that Dr. Linda Thibodeau has made to the field of educational audiology are both far-reaching and long-standing. She is an excellent candidate for the Frederick S. Berg Award in Educational Audiology. This is not only due to the impact she has made in the field of educational audiology, but also due to her personal qualities and compassion for helping children and students with hearing needs. It is my hope that the Board of Directors strongly considers her for this award.

Cordially,

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