May 11, 2015

**Educational Audiology Association Awards Committee:**

I am writing to nominate my mentor and friend, Linda Thibodeau, for the 2015 Frederick S. Berg Award. I have known Dr. Thibodeau since 1999 when I began graduate studies at The University of Texas at Dallas, and as a result I have witnessed, first hand, many of her notable contributions to educational audiology on a national and international level. Dr. Thibodeau’s far-reaching work in educational audiology includes, but is not limited to, research studies, published articles, conference presentations, academic teaching, doctoral mentoring, educational contracts, and professional and community service. All of these accomplishments are noteworthy; however, I would like to summarize her Scholarly Superiority, Countless Contracts, and Meaningful Mentoring.

**Scholarly Superiority**

Listing her many scholarly contributions to the field, which include 67 published articles, 15 book chapters, and 282 presentations, does not adequately summarize her impact on educational audiologists. Linda Thibodeau is an influential, impactful force who radiates and consistently disseminates evidence-based information on the optimal audiological management of children with hearing loss or other auditory disorders. Most audiologists know Linda Thibodeau because of reading her or attending one or more of her entertaining, passionate, and practical presentations related to the habilitation or rehabilitation of individuals with hearing loss or other disorders. She is totally committed to her work, and her level of job satisfaction is clearly evident in every professional presentation she gives. Furthermore, many audiologists have encountered one or more of her creative acronyms including: SPRINT, EARRING, AALTA, TELEGRAM, SIARC, ACCESS, EFMHA65, CHAT, and many more. LT, as she’s called by many of her previous students, loves acronyms, which is why I had to add some to this nomination letter!

**Countless Contracts**

In addition to her scholarly activities, over the past 10 years, Linda Thibodeau has maintained multiple educational audiology contracts in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. There are not very many full professors who choose to maintain a high level of clinical activity on top of their expected teaching, research, and service loads. Linda Thibodeau is truly committed to educational audiology. These contracts enable her to understand current equipment intricacies and difficulties and informs the content of her upcoming presentations, future research projects, and classroom teaching topics.

**Meaningful Mentoring**

I believe most educational audiologists will concur with me that Linda Thibodeau has made lasting contributions to the field. However, many people may not be aware of the ripple effect from her mentorship. Her passion for audiology is infectious, and she has transferred her love for audiology to many competent and successful Au.D. and Ph.D. graduates who are now impacting the field. She pushes her students to think outside the box and to be independent, compassionate, and effective audiologists and researchers. At the same time, she she shows compassion and care for families of students in crisis. Personally, I would not be in academia without her guidance, encouragement, and support. In 1999, she invited me to assist her in a small clinical research project during my Master’s degree program. We fitted FM systems on children using real ear verification. I loved the experience so much that I enrolled in the Ph.D. program the following semester and completed my doctoral program a few years later. As I continue down the path she helped to clear for me, I can only hope to continue the beautiful ripple effect that she began.

I know you will agree that Linda Thibodeau is an excellent and well-deserving candidate for the Educational Audiology Association Frederick S. Berg Award. Her noteworthy contributions to the field of educational audiology are truly immeasurable.

**Sincerely,**



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