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RE: Frederick Berg Nomination: Linda Thibodeau

It is my honor to write this letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Linda Thibodeau, longtime colleague, collaborator, and friend, for the EAA 2015 Frederick Berg Award. I have been fortunate to have worked with Dr. Thibodeau in many ventures and particularly those that focus on hearing assistance technology. Ironically, I first met Dr. Thibodeau at the 1993 EAA Summer Conference in Logan, Utah when she presented a workshop on classroom amplification systems. Always an avid advocate for classroom listening, Dr. Thibodeau exemplifies the spirit of Frederick Berg and this award.

Every educational audiologist has benefited from Dr. Thibodeau’s work in some way. Her extensive vitae documents her 38 year history of persistent efforts to promote and guide effective practices for appropriate listening technology, both personal and assistive, to maximize communication access for all persons who may be helped by an improved listening environment. Like Dr. Berg, her background bridges education and audiology to focus on the connection between hearing, listening, and learning. Dr. Thibodeau’s research has benefited children and adults with disorders and other developmental issues that impact attention, brain development and auditory function. The following list summarizes some of her achievements:

* Educator: Dr. Thibodeau is the consummate professor and teacher who provides her students with cutting edge authentic learning and research opportunities. These include experiences in school-based audiology, summer camps and programs for children, the Summer Intensive Aural Rehabilitation Program (SIARC), and assisting with various amplification investigations. Researcher: Dr. Thibodeau is a prolific investigator of amplification and other interventions to enhance communication access. Her research has culminated in 34 refereed journal articles, 15 book chapters, 33 other articles, and 17 published abstracts.
* Presenter: At last report Dr. Thibodeau made 161 invited presentations and workshops in the U.S. and globally plus an additional 121 submitted presentations.
* Grant writer: 23 funded investigations plus numerous other funded projects.
* Projects that are available to educational audiologists: website resources, EARRING CD, development of school-based assessment procedures, “how to” guides.
* Professional service: leadership and other active roles with ASHA, AAA, Acoustical Society of American, Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology, and ANSI.
* Community service: university committees and other community-based support.

Dr. Thibodeau enthusiastically gives of herself and her time. She blends research, clinical practice, and teaching as she promotes best practices in audiology and interventions to enhance communication access. It is my pleasure to recognize her nomination for the Frederick Berg award based on these important contributions and her support of school-based audiology practices that ultimately lead to better outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,



Cheryl DeConde Johnson