

Dear NSSEO Community:

"Doing what you love and loving what you do" captures the past 43 years of my career in education, working with incredible students, families, staff, leaders, NSSEO Governing Board and community partners to support students with special needs.

Since I was a young child, I loved helping others, volunteering with students with special needs and working at camps. My career in education began as a teacher assistant working with young children with significant needs. I then worked as a special education teacher, loving the creativity of designing and adapting lessons, partnering with others and embracing the "why" of the work in making a difference. I will always be a teacher at heart, treasuring a profession that at its core is designed to guide and customize students' learning and advance educational journeys in pursuit of life goals.

While I was a teacher working on a variety of committees, pursuing advanced studies and being drawn to impacting the broader scope of focus in special education, my supervisor encouraged me to pursue leadership. I did just that and for over 33 years, I have served in various leadership roles in both districts and special education cooperatives. For the past 15 of the best years in my career, I have been honored to serve as superintendent of NSSEO, an excellent, progressive and uniquely special organization.

As we kick off the 2022-2023 school year, I am entering my 16th and last year as superintendent of NSSEO and will retire at the end of June, 2023. Dramatic changes in education have advanced our efforts to support students, staff and leaders and we have embraced and led many important changes to propel our organization forward. Inspired every day by people I work with, I am inspired by the courage and resilience of students and families and am immensely proud and humbled by the dedicated and talented NSSEO community that I serve and will treasure this important year of transition.

We have many important goals and plans established for this year and I am looking forward to every day and every special moment that makes a difference for students. Having the opportunity to do what I love every day has been such an important focus in my career and in my life and this year I will continue to treasure all the special aspects of this purposeful work. My sincere appreciation for all of the love, care and support you provide as part of our NSSEO community.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming year together, intensely focused on our vision of 'Building a promising future for students.'

Warmest Regards,



Judy Hackett, Ed.D.
Superintendent