



## NSSEO Governing Board Brief September 3rd, 2019

### NSSEO September Shining Star: Brian Funk



Brian Funk, a Connections student from District 214, was recognized as September's Shining Star for his incredible work growth and accomplishments at Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center (SLOEC) over the course of the Extended School Year (ESY). Brian advanced his skills working on a wide variety of outdoor projects and successfully completed the following tasks: raked and composted leaves, built three new sections of boat dock, emptied fireplaces, weeded around oak trees, made cement decoration molds, cleaned and racked the beach, moved firewood logs, and removed old dock sections from the lake wearing waders.

NSSEO Connections teacher, Robyn Schomburg said, "Brian made great growth throughout the summer and worked hard every single day. Brian is a leader in our NSSEO learning community for his willingness to be a role model to practice excellence."

Congratulations, Brian and your supportive family and team at Miner and Kirk!

### Tenured/Non-Probationary Teachers:



Dr. Brad Carter honored 11 teachers receiving tenure and non-probationary status. These educators and therapists support NSSEO in a variety of roles and are making a difference throughout our community and schools. While they have only been "officially" teaching for 3-4 years, they continue to put forth tremendous efforts of master teachers. "Our community is better off with these individuals taking care of the needs of our students, families, and fellow educators. They will continue to meet the needs of our community for many years to come," exclaimed Dr. Carter!

Congratulations to the following NSSEO staff:

- Eileen Brankatelli
- Kristen Calvert
- Trinidad Canas
- Cindy Fairbanks
- Damien Charo
- Chelsie Grotelueschen
- Caitlin Herman
- Brittany Schmitt
- Katherine Watts
- Janet Gallagher
- Danielle Kneller

### IASBO Presentation for Ms. Julie Jilek:



Dr. Dean D. Romano, current president of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), presented Ms. Julie Jilek a check in appreciation of her service on the IASBO Board of Directors. Along with Dr. Michael Jacoby, IASBO Executive Director and other board leaders, Dr. Romano shared that, “Julie has made a difference in our organization due to her leadership and wealth of knowledge. We can call upon Julie at any moment, and she is always willing to support in any way she can.”

Ms. Jilek graciously accepted the check and shared her desire to donate the funds to the NSSEO Foundation, to assist in the purchase of a handicapped accessible school bus to better serve our students at NSSEO to access the community. “These years (serving on IASBO Board) have the most memorable experiences of my career,” proclaimed Julie. She shared her appreciation of the opportunity and time the leaders provided in enhancing her career.

### Opening Day Highlights: Dr. Judy Hackett

Dr. Judy Hackett shared several highlights from this year’s Opening Day Celebration entitled, “Adjusting Our Sails.” The morning allowed the NSSEO staff to gather together after a long summer off and spend time focusing on a successful year ahead. The day included guest speeches by students, parents, Dr. Judy Hackett, and Governing Board President Janice Krinky as well as a keynote speech from acclaimed author and educator, Dr. Tim Elmore. Dr. Elmore provided a captivating speech that emphasized the importance of our individual efforts, adjustments to changes and how the work we do positively impacts the lives of our students.

NSSEO recognized staff members celebrating years of service milestones of 10, 20 and 30 years and perfect attendance. In addition, three awards were presented to staff, parents, and community partners for their impressive service to NSSEO. This year's recipients were:

**Heart of NSSEO Award** - This award recognizes the person that exemplifies compassion and dedication to the students, families and staff of NSSEO that embodies a core value of NSSEO- looking beyond what is, to what is possible.

Jody Kaminsky, teacher at Timber Ridge, makes every learning experience vibrant and entertaining to engage her young students. She has established a program for senior volunteers to extend reading opportunities for students. Jody had devoted her career to students and the NSSEO community and exemplifies compassion and positivity.

**Jody Kaminsky**



**Legacy Award** - This award recognizes one of the families who have contributed to the legacy of NSSEO as we celebrate our 51st anniversary. Through their many contributions over the past 20 years, they have become a special part of the NSSEO family and NSSEO continues to be a very special part of their lives.

Beth and Doug have an incredible style, balancing the needs of their own children and the hours of volunteer work that have contributed to NSSEO's programming. The "Dynamic Duo" spent countless hours leading the fundraising efforts for NSSEO's 50 Year Bash and continue to find ways to raise money to support students, staff, and community.

**Beth Anne and Doug Ausnehmer celebrating with family**



**Making a Difference Award** - This award recognizes a NSSEO community partner who has demonstrated extraordinary contributions to our organization. Their collaboration, dedication and ongoing efforts to transport students safely reflects the important NSSEO core value of- connecting and collaborating through partnerships to expand and advance meaningful opportunities for students.

Rich-Lee Corporation continues to employ drivers who go above and beyond to meet the needs of students with significant needs. They are responsive to challenging situations, focus on student-based improved safety measures and trainings. We are so fortunate to partner with an excellent committed company that cares first and foremost about students.

**RichLee Inc. - John Benish, Jr., Tom O'Sullivan, John Knoelke, Dave Armbrecht**



**Continuous Improvement Plan Update: Dr. Judy Hackett**

Dr. Judy Hackett shared a more detailed updated version of the 2019-2020 NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan, providing more specifics around each goal and related objectives and the associated indicators. Updates on the progress reflected through the dashboard indicators will be provided to educational stakeholders throughout the year.

Dr. Hackett stated, “We have reviewed the Board -approved CIP 2019-2020 goals with NSSEO staff and member district special education leaders. Since that time, our leadership team has worked together to review and revise our dashboard indicators to best align to our updated goals and to discuss what measures will be used to collect authentic and meaningful data that reflects the progress and growth in the respective areas.”

A detailed action plan, frequent communication, review and refinement will enhance our work and is designed to advance our efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students.

**Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center Annual Report: Mr. Bryan Bolger**

Mr. Bryan Bolger provided highlights on the impact of many ongoing contributions of NSSEO staff whose efforts increased the number of learning opportunities at SLOEC. SLOEC’s related mission to provide visionary leadership in the field of experiential learning focuses on improving outcomes for all students. Mr. Bolger shared many key ways SLOEC continues to meet the needs of NSSEO, member districts, and countless other organizations that have benefited from a partnership with SLOEC. In total for the 2018-19 school year, 9,338 students and 4,289 staff were able to access SLOEC’s many unique outdoor learning opportunities. Mr. Bolger and his staff work diligently to bring NSSEO’s vision alive for all students and are excited to expand the opportunities for more students to experience Sunrise Lake.



### **Miner Playground Update: Ms. Julie Jilek**

NSSEO received notification that we have been awarded one of the Illinois Community Economic Development Grants, with \$410,497 committed to build an inclusive, accessible playground at Miner Therapeutic School. The grant is with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and we are in the process of completing the required paperwork to access funding. A huge thank you to Janice Krinsky for being the catalyst that started us down the path to receiving this grant by attending the town hall meeting and letting us know about the opportunity. We are grateful to State Senator Ann Gillespie and State Representative Mark Walker for their incredible support of this important student-centered project.

### **Professional Learning 2019-2020:**

NSSEO provides high-quality professional learning opportunities grounded in research and designed to facilitate changes in educator practices that will result in improved learning. These learning opportunities are open to all NSSEO staff and our member districts. Ms. Stacy Colgan, PL Coordinator highlighted several of the many opportunities that await our staff this year. Executive Functioning, Facilitated IEP Training, customized Mental Health Series, and the Safe and Civil Schools Cohort are a few important and timely events taking place this fall. To view NSSEO's Professional Learning Calendar please click on this [link](#).

### **Upcoming NSSEO Events:**

- 9/19**            **Miner Open House; Timber Ridge Open House**
- 9/20**            **Kirk Secondary Campus Homecoming Dance**
- 9/26**            **Timber Ridge School Safety Fair**
- 9/30**            **Rosh Hashanah - NO SCHOOL**
- 10/2**            **NSSEO Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm**

### **Making a Difference:**

NSSEO is continually looking for ways to expand partnerships with parents, district, community leaders and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and making a positive impact for NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to make a difference visit us at <http://www.nsseo.org/MAKEADIFFERENCE/> as well as on our social media platforms:

Twitter            @NSSEO\_org  
Facebook        @NSSEO  
Instagram        NSSEO\_org