



**2016 LEGISLATIVE STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES**

The NCSL Legislative Staff Sections and Networks annually present Legislative Staff Achievement Awards to recognize staff excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and strengthening the legislative institution. Each staff section and network may make two awards, and each decides the criteria for its awards. The staff co-chairs of the NCSL Standing Committees also may name two award recipients. Examples of accomplishments recognized by the Legislative Staff Achievement Awards include, but are not limited to:

- Helping to improve the effectiveness of the legislative institution.
- Supporting the legislative process and the mission of the legislature.
- Exhibiting a high degree of professionalism, competence and integrity in serving the legislature and the public.
- Contributing to the work of the National Conference of State Legislatures.
- Demonstrating expertise in a particular field.
- Contributing to existing knowledge.

2016 RECIPIENTS

American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS)

Sandra D. Tenney, chief clerk, Utah House of Representatives

Janice A. Gadd, Legislative Printing Supervisor and Journal Clerk, Utah House of Representatives

Leadership Staff Section (LSS)

Charity Stowe, deputy director and leadership assistant, Legislative Affairs, Indiana General Assembly

Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS)

Jon Heining, general counsel, Texas Legislative Council

Matt Gehring, research attorney, House Research Department, Minnesota House of Representatives

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN)

Rachel H. Hise, lead principal policy analyst, Office of Policy Analysis, Maryland General Assembly

Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section (LINCS)

Dennis Yoder, communications technician, Senate Media Services, Texas State Senate

Legislative Research Librarians (LRL)

Sonia Gavin, legislative information resources manager, Legislative Services Division, Montana State Legislature

National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO)

Martha Wigton, director, House Budget and Research Office, Georgia General Assembly

Tax Incentive Review Team, Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis, Legislative Services Agency, Indiana General Assembly

National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT)

Joel Redding, deputy chief information officer, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky General Assembly

National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES)

Mississippi Joint Legislative PEER Committee, 2016 NLPES Excellence in Evaluation Award

National Legislative Services and Security Association (NLSSA)

Virginia Drew, director, State House Visitor Center, New Hampshire General Court

Richard Webb, Senate Doorkeeper, South Carolina State Senate

Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS)

Clare Dyer, deputy director, Research Division, Legislative Council, Texas State Legislature

Sarah Freeman, Senior Staff Attorney, Indiana Legislative Services Agency

NCSL Standing Committees

Katherine B. Schill, fiscal analyst, Department of Fiscal Analysis, Minnesota House of Representatives

Martha Carter, legislative auditor, Nebraska Legislature

American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS)



Sandra D. Tenney, chief clerk, Utah House of Representatives

The American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries is proud to honor Sandy Tenney for her many years of dedicated service to the Utah Legislature, ASLCS, and NCSL. Sandy began her legislative career in 1985, and over the years, her hard work was rewarded with positions of increasing responsibility. Prior to her appointment as chief clerk of the Utah House of Representatives in 2005, Sandy served as manager of printing services, manager of senate services, and as the senate reading and amending clerk. A member of ASLCS since 1999, Sandy has served on the Executive Committee and as an officer and member of numerous ASLCS standing committees.

Sandy epitomizes the qualities of an excellent clerk: dedication to the legislative institution, thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure, service to all members in equal measure, a commitment to improving the legislative process, and an eagerness to assist her colleagues and to contribute to the goals of the Society. She has earned the respect of Utah's legislative family and of her colleagues across the United States and its territories. Please join us in congratulating Sandy for this well-deserved recognition.

American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS)



Janice A. Gadd, legislative printing supervisor and journal clerk, Utah House of Representatives

It is our pleasure to present the Legislative Staff Achievement Award to Janice Gadd, the legislative printing supervisor and journal clerk of the Utah House of Representatives.

Janice is a dedicated and enthusiastic employee of the Utah House of Representatives, where she's worked for over 30 years. She is professional, honest, hard-working, and dedicated. During her years of service, she has worked tirelessly and continually looks for ways to improve workflows and create efficiencies. Janice has served in many leadership roles for ASLCS, including as associate vice president; both elected and appointed member of the Executive Committee; member of a special committee, and served as a panelist, facilitator and moderator for various Professional Development Seminars hosted by ASLCS.

Janice is a very worthy recipient of the Legislative Staff Achievement Award. Not only is she loyal and dedicated to the Utah House, but she is also a devoted member of the Society. It is our pleasure to present Janice with the Legislative Staff Achievement Award.

Leadership Staff Section (LSS)



Charity Stowe, deputy director and leadership assistant, Legislative Affairs, Indiana General Assembly

LSS is pleased to present the 2016 Legislative Staff Achievement Award to Charity Stowe for her service to the Indiana General Assembly, LSS staff section and NCSL. Charity, deputy director of legislative affairs and a leadership assistant, has provided dedicated service to the Indiana House Democratic Caucus for three years.

While working for two very busy Leadership members in the House Democratic caucus, Charity has become the point person for the constituent information tracking system used by the General Assembly. In her role, she has assisted the chief of staff to develop and teach training seminars for other staff on how to use the system.

Charity has a positive attitude and does not hesitate to put forth the extra work often required during session. She has a strong work ethic, is tough under pressure, grasps difficult concepts quickly and maintains professional poise when working with legislative members and members of the executive administration. The LSS is pleased to present this award to Charity and honored to have her as a member of our staff section.

Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS)



Jon Heining, general counsel, Texas Legislative Council

The Legal Services Staff Section selects Jon Heining to receive a 2016 Legislative Staff Achievement Award for his excellence in service to state legislatures and legislative staff and for being an active, enthusiastic participant in every NCSL project he has taken on—and he has taken on many.

Jon is general counsel for the Texas Legislative Council in Austin, Texas. He joined the TLC in July 2006 and provides legal support for administrative, contractual, and personnel issues; drafts bills; and provides legal advice to the legislature.

Jon was the chair of LSSS in conference year 2013–14 and is the longest-serving immediate past chair of LSSS (since August 2014); he is a member of the NCSL Executive Committee and chairs the LSCC Information Technology Subcommittee; he is a member of the Legislative Effectiveness Committee and he served as host-state chair in 2015 for a huge, successful LSSS professional development seminar. Jon is known fondly as the King of Bylaws. He was the staff chair of the Bylaws and Rules Subcommittee that updated and revised the NCSL rules of procedure for the standing committees; he helped to rewrite the LSCC bylaws; and he recently provided consultation on merging staff section bylaws.

Further, Jon is a champion of the confidentiality of legislative communication and an expert on social media issues in the legislature. He is a frequent speaker at NCSL and LSSS meetings. In these ways Jon has helped to improve the effectiveness of the legislative institution; he supports the legislative process and the mission of the legislature; he exhibits the highest degree of professionalism, competence, and integrity in serving the legislature and the public; he has greatly contributed to the work of NCSL and LSSS.

Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS)



Matt Gehring, research attorney, House Research Department, Minnesota House of Representatives

The Legal Services Staff Section selects Matt Gehring and the Minnesota House Research Department to receive a 2016 Legislative Staff Achievement Award for their service to the Minnesota House of Representatives and for Matt's service with LSSS.

We are proud to recognize Matt's work in creating a series of House Research Department documents exploring the role of the legislature in amending both the United States Constitution and Minnesota's state constitution. Matt and his colleagues in the House Research Department, along with help from the Legislative Reference Library, compiled extensive data and to create this series of publications which helps legislators understand the powers of the legislature and the constraints on the legislature's power in proposing, ratifying and submitting constitutional amendments. These publications demonstrate a high degree of expertise, and contribute to existing knowledge in a way that will be helpful to legislators and staff in all states.

Matt has been a legislative analyst/attorney in the nonpartisan Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2006. His subject area assignments include elections/campaign finance and redistricting, higher education, and privacy and open government laws. In addition to working for the House, Matt has served as an election judge in the city of Minneapolis since 2008, and was appointed head judge in his precinct in 2010.

Matt has been an active member of the Legal Services Staff Section serving on the Task Force on Confidentiality and Attorney-Client Privilege since 2014. This committee's task has been to gather statutory information and case law regarding the confidential nature of communication between legislative members and the staff who research, consult and draft legislation.

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN)



Rachel H. Hise, lead principal policy analyst, Office of Policy Analysis, Maryland General Assembly

Rachel H. Hise is lead principal policy analyst with the Office of Policy Analysis in the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, the nonpartisan professional staff agency to the Maryland General Assembly. Ms. Hise has worked for the legislature for nearly 23 years, with most of that time in education policy among other policy areas. Ms. Hise has worked on most major legislation enacted in the past 20 years that affects education policy in Maryland and has served as lead staff to the House Appropriations Committee and numerous special commissions on K-12 and higher education, including the Commission on Education Finance, Equity and Excellence (i.e. Thornton Commission). Ms. Hise has been a member of the Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) for many years and served as co-chair of LESN. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Bryn Mawr College and a Master of Science in Public Management and Policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Rachel has been an active member of LESN having served as Steering Committee member and Co-chair, facilitator and presenter in LESN seminars, and an active contributor to the LESN listserv. She has also been an active leader during LESN events, offering the wisdom of her experience and challenging others to think critically and creatively about education policy.

Rachel staffed the Maryland House Appropriations Committee for 10 sessions, and was the Committee's lead analyst before moving into a policy management role in the Department of Legislative Services. Having now spent over two decades working in education policy, Rachel serves as an Education Workgroup Leader for the Maryland Legislature, guiding the work of a team of analysts. Her leadership has also led to Rachel's nomination as the staff Co-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Education Committee, and to her selection as just one of six education staff nationally to serve as a member of NCSL's International Education Study Group.

Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section (LINCS)



Dennis Yoder, communications technician, Senate Media Services, Texas State Senate

Dennis has served as a communications technician for the Texas Senate since 1997. He coordinates audio archiving for all official Senate-sponsored events, audio-visual needs for special events and media logistics for Senate field hearings. He also develops and oversees major upgrades and renovation projects for the Senate's audio and video systems. In addition to being chair of the Legislative Information and Communications Staff Section, Dennis serves on NCSL's Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, the Subcommittee on Technology Issues and the Staff Sections Officers Work Group. He is a graduate of Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas.

Dennis was unanimously selected for this award by the LINCS executive committee.

Due to his experience, skill, and likability, Dennis is viewed as a valuable resource for people seeking guidance on their own tasks. Regardless of his commitments, Dennis displays initiative in his eagerness to help others outside of his department, which not only supports Media Services, but also the legislature as a whole.

During the past two years, Dennis has assumed leadership roles to contribute to NCSL. As chair of LINCS, he helped revive our underutilized social media presence that had been a topic of many of our PDS's. He redesigned the LINCS logo and created a unique logo for two of our PDS's.

He stands apart because he's always willing to learn and contribute in ways that enhance our Media department, the Texas Senate and LINCS.

Legislative Research Librarians (LRL)



**Sonia Gavin, legislative information resources manager, Legislative Services Division,
Montana State Legislature**

Legislative Research Librarian Staff Section is proud to select Sonia Gavin of Montana as the recipient of the Legislative Staff Achievement Award. As a legislative information resources manager, Sonia provides services to Montana legislators and staff by answering reference and research questions, obtaining and circulating materials such as research reports, state and federal legislation, and providing interlibrary loan services. Her outreach to legislators and legislative staff has included both hosting tours of the center and providing coffee events; both of which ensure the Legislative Reference Center remains relevant to the business of the legislature. During session, Sonia is often found in the Session Information Office. She spends part of the day out of the library and answering questions for the public and accepting phone messages for legislators. Through Sonia's role on the Montana staff team that puts together legislator Orientation and Training, she ensures legislators know about not only her library's services but also those of NCSL.

Sonia's involvement on NCSL has taken many forms. As part of the formal NCSL Ambassador program, Sonia introduced many new legislators and staff to the products and information NCSL provides. She has been actively involved in both NCSL and the LRL for several years attending Summit and Professional Development Seminars, participating in several committees, and as an LRL officer; currently she is serving as the LRL Immediate Past Chair. Additionally, Sonia is currently in her first of two years on the NCSL Executive Committee. She has made great efforts to ensure the LRL staff section voice is heard throughout NCSL.

Sonia's involvement in the greater library community includes participation in the Montana Library Association where she is known as an active member who always gets involved. She has worked on several committees and interest groups and attended numerous conferences sponsored by the association.

National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO)



Martha Wigton, director, House Budget and Research Office, Georgia General Assembly

The National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO) recognizes Martha Wigton for her outstanding contributions to the Georgia General Assembly. Throughout her continued and diligent service to the State of Georgia, she has worked for both chambers in a significant capacity. Martha has served as director of the Senate Research Office and is currently the director of the House Budget and Research Office. Throughout her career, Martha has exemplified professionalism and her service has been instrumental to the Georgia General Assembly.

Throughout her career, Martha has won numerous awards, including the 2004 State Government Service Award from the Georgia Municipal Association. Additionally, Martha has worked on commissions and task forces in service to the state, such as the Governor's Education Reform Commission in 1999. Her active involvement in areas ranging from Health to Higher Education policy continues to inform, support and assist the legislature.

Martha has provided a substantial contribution to the policy of the state of Georgia. She has key involvement in sustainable policy and formative fiscal discussions, including 2010 legislation that assisted in the revision of fees, taxes and financial payments, and was pivotal to the development of the appropriations bill that session.

Martha's management and counsel for the legislature in support of transparent budget information and sustainable fiscal policy is an example for fiscal managers throughout the State of Georgia and in the legislative finance profession. Her dedication and support of the legislative process throughout her career, and service to both chambers of the Georgia General Assembly is truly remarkable. Martha's advocacy and attentiveness to House priorities is always overshadowed by her vision and devotion to the progress of the state overall.

National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO)



Tax Incentive Review Team, Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis, Legislative Services Agency, Indiana General Assembly

The National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO) recognizes the tax incentive review team in Indiana's Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for their outstanding contributions to the Indiana General Assembly. The incentive review team has successfully initiated Indiana's new annual tax incentive review program enacted during the 2014 legislative session. After only two years, the incentive review team and the analysis and evaluation work that they have completed has been commended by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Indiana General Assembly, and researchers in the field.

The Pew Charitable Trusts has stated that "Indiana has become a national leader in developing rigorous research on the economic impact of incentives," and researchers at Ball State University have praised the incentive review team's detailed work on tax increment financing, part of their broader research on tax incentives.

The members of the incentive review team are:

Mr. Heath Holloway, senior fiscal analyst; Dr. Anita Yadavalli, senior fiscal analyst; Mr. Randhir Jha, chief economist; Ms. Lauren Tanselle, fiscal analyst; Mr. Robert Sigalow, senior fiscal analyst; Mr. Austin Spears, fiscal analyst.

The incentive review team has made significant and unique contributions to continue the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis' role as the best source of fiscal research and analysis in Indiana state government. The reviews have provided the Indiana General Assembly with new and important information and analysis on tax incentives, which has improved the General Assembly's understanding of tax incentives and their impacts.

(pictured above, Heath Holloway accepting the award at the 2016 Legislative Summit)

National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT)



Joel Redding, deputy chief information officer, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky General Assembly

The National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT) recognizes Joel Redding, deputy chief information officer for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (LRC), in recognition of his active involvement and support of NALIT and for his contributions to the Kentucky Legislature.

In his role as deputy chief information officer, Joel has served as technical lead of chamber automation and voting system upgrades and has overseen the transition of LRC computer systems from various legacy programs to modern .NET systems.

Joel also serves as webmaster for the legislature, and has enhanced and automated many website features and created uniformity across the legislative web site. He also developed one of the first state legislative mobile device web interfaces. His understanding of the legislative process and the important role of technology has helped staff and legislators accomplish their roles and serve the public.

Joel also is an active member of NALIT. He served as chair of NALIT in 2014-15, and currently leads the NALIT Nominating Committee. Joel also served as NALIT secretary, vice-chair, and as a director of NALIT. He has been an active member of several Professional Development Seminar Planning Committees, and in 2008, he coordinated and co-hosted a successful seminar in Louisville, Ky. Joel has also served as a moderator or speaker at numerous NALIT sessions over the years.

Joel's many roles within the legislature and in NALIT are evidence of his dedication and willingness to go above and beyond in everything he does. We are pleased to present Joel with the 2016 award.

National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES)



Mississippi Joint Legislative PEER Committee, 2016 NLPES Excellence in Evaluation Award

Mississippi's Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) is the recipient of the 2016 NLPES Excellence in Evaluation Award. Between 2012 and 2015, PEER program evaluations have covered their Legislature's eight key strategic policy areas: economic development, education, public safety and order, health, human services, natural resources, infrastructure, and government and citizens. PEER staff have made significant contributions through their work, which is reflected by statutory changes, improved state entity operations and their role in the development of a statewide strategic plan. In addition, the PEER staff have initiated several new processes, including the production of action briefs to assist busy readers in understanding report findings, partnering with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative to develop a cost-benefit approach to invest in policies and programs proven to work, and the development of a standard series of questions agencies must answer when requesting funding for new intervention programs. PEER also has continued to make valuable contributions to the field of program evaluation through their participation in NLPES, peer reviews, and public outreach. Congratulations to the Mississippi Joint Legislative PEER Committee!

National Legislative Services and Security Association (NLSSA)



Virginia Drew, director, State House Visitor Center, New Hampshire

Virginia oversees a very busy office provided tours for approximately 30,000 school children and 15,000 visitors per year. Many international guests through the World Affairs Council, the International Visitor and Open World programs as well as US Department of State dignitaries pass through the New Hampshire State House each year. 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the New Hampshire primary. The state house housed a special exhibit and provided opportunities for visitors to meet with candidates for office. Virginia schedules all guided tours, manages the Granite State Ambassadors, and oversees the State House gift shop and the Flags over the State House program. She clerks for the Joint Legislative Historic Committee and oversees the care and restoration of the New Hampshire large portrait collections. She currently serves as secretary and Region 1 vice chair of the National Legislative Services and Security Association.

National Legislative Services and Security Association (NLSSA)



Richard Webb, Senate doorkeeper, South Carolina

Richard has been an employee with the South Carolina Senate for more than 10 years. With his technical expertise, Richard has played a vital role in many areas of operation including upgrades in cameras, access control and emergency notification. After the 2015 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston that resulted in the death of Senior Pastor and South Carolina State Senator Clementa Pinckney, Richard immediately went to the Senator's family. He provided a ministry of presence by being available at the home with Senator Pinckney's wife, Jennifer, and the two children. He volunteered to stay with them and be available with whatever they might need during those difficult days right after the shooting. He still provides that presence today to the Pinckney family. In May 2016, Richard spent more time with Jennifer Pinckney as they reviewed the preparation for the unveiling of Senator Pinckney's portrait in the South Carolina State House. Richard is an active member of the National Legislative Services and Security Association and is responsible for a number of logistics involving the Region 4 NLSSA Training Conference held in South Carolina each year and the NLSSA annual training conference held annually in the Fall.

Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS)



Clare Dyer, deputy director, Research Division, Legislative Council, Texas State Legislature

Clare Dyer joined the Texas Legislative Council in 1988 as a senior researcher and quickly became a core member of the redistricting management team, guiding the collection of geographic data and the development of databases.

Among the many reasons Clare is receiving this award include her contributions to the redistricting process in Texas over her nearly 30-year career, including her creation and management of the Mapping and Redistricting Section, and for her work now as deputy director of the Research Division of the Texas Legislative Council.

Clare helped establish what would become the nation's premier redistricting support system and went on to manage the newly constituted Mapping and Redistricting Section of the council's Research Division in 2002.

Now a deputy director of the council's research division, Clare has provided training to thousands of legislators and their staff members and has testified extensively on technical matters before house and senate committees and at hearings around the state. At the national level, she has disseminated knowledge gained over the course of three redistricting cycles by her participation in at least 18 NCSL events, including annual meetings, the 2010 Redistricting Law Seminar, and five Legislative Summits.

Clare has served as Texas' liaison for the U.S. Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program since 1998, and in recent years, she has been an important resource in federal court redistricting cases. A member of RACSS since 2002, she has also shared her expertise as part of NCSL's Redistricting Task Force.

Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS)



Sarah Freeman, senior staff attorney, Indiana Legislative Services Agency

Sarah Freeman has been a staff attorney with the Indiana Legislative Service Agency since September 2000. Sarah has counseled and drafted legislation for hundreds of Hoosier legislators in the areas of transportation, utilities, public safety and taxation. Sarah also staffs multiple standing and interim study committees and is ready to research any issue on demand. Sarah is known throughout the State House for her organizational skills, technical and subject matter expertise, and enthusiasm for the legislative process.

Among the many reasons why Sarah is receiving this year's award include her key role in the drafting and passage of Indiana's HEA 1087-2016, a recodification and reform of her state's Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Her skills and expertise not only ensured that the Indiana General Assembly adopted sound public policies to solve what had been a long standing problem, she played the quintessential role of a legislative staffer in serving the bill's sponsor, stakeholders, and others involved with this bill. Sarah always acted with the highest degree of professionalism and integrity.

Sarah was superb in carrying out her duties with professionalism and integrity in a truly nonpartisan and objective manner and she was publicly commended by the bill's author, Representative Edmond Soliday. Sarah's work on this legislation is just one more example of her exceptional level of service to legislators, staff, colleagues, and the public.

Sarah is an active member of NCSL, where she serves on the Executive Committee and the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee and is a member of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure committee, the Communications, Financial Services, and Interstate Commerce committee, and the Legal Services and Research and Committee staff sections. Sarah is also a 2014 participant in the Legislative Staff Management Institute.

NCSL Standing Committees



Katherine B. Schill, fiscal analyst, Department of Fiscal Analysis, Minnesota House of Representatives

Katherine is currently employed by the Minnesota House of Representatives in the Department of Fiscal Analysis. As a nonpartisan fiscal analyst for more than 30 years, she's examined the budgets and spending of most state agencies in two states and has trained hundreds of legislators and staff about the budget process. She currently staffs the House Tax Committee and the Property Tax and Local Government Finance Division.

Kathy holds a Masters degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in business-economics from Kent State University.

Over the last 29 years, Kathy has worked with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) holding a variety of leadership positions, including service on the NCSL Executive Committee, the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee and as President of the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices. She has been an officer of NCSL's Budgets and Revenue (B&R) Committee and Labor and Economic Development (LED) Committee. She is currently an overall vice chair of the NCSL Standing Committees, a member NCSL's Task Force on Immigration and the States and remains an active member of both the B&R and LED Standing Committees.

Away from the Capitol, Ms. Schill enjoys working with church and community nonprofit groups. She currently chairs the Minnesota Annual Conference's Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and is a member of the United Methodist Church's "Builders" Finance Committee. She is the immediate past treasurer for Emma Norton Services (transitional housing for needy women and families) and immediate past treasurer for Interfaith Service to Latin America (ISLA).

NCSL Standing Committees



Martha Carter, legislative auditor, Nebraska Legislature

Martha Carter has been selected to receive the 2016 Legislative Staff Achievement Award for her service to the Nebraska Unicameral and the NCSL Standing Committees.

Martha has worked for the Nebraska Unicameral for 27 years, starting as a research analyst for health and human services issues and moving into performance audit work in 1997. As a performance auditor, Martha has worked on evaluations of programs in a variety of agencies.

In 2006, Martha was appointed to the newly created position of legislator auditor. In this position, she manages seven employees and ensures that the Legislature's performance audit work complies with government auditing standards. In addition to audit topics selected by a special legislative committee, the Office is currently completing its first statutorily required performance audit of a large tax incentive program.

Martha has been active in NCSL since 2002 when she was selected to be NLPES secretary. Martha has also served as Vice Chair and Chair of NLPES and has been a discretionary appointment to the LSCC on multiple occasions. Martha's work with the committees spans a decade. She has served as an officer of the Labor and Economic Development Committee, and an overall staff vice chair and staff chair of the Standing Committees. In addition, Martha is just completing a three-year term on the Executive Committee