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Julie Leeper  
President  
National Association of State Student Grant  
and Aid Programs  
Iowa College Student Aid Commission  
603 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50319-9017

Dear *Julie* Ms. Leeper:

Please convey to the members of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) my thanks and gratitude for designating me a Friend of NASSGAP. I am deeply honored to have been designated a Friend.

I have many fond memories of working with NASSGAP and its members over the years. At my first NASSGAP conference in Phoenix in 1989, I began the process of cleaning up the data used for the Federal State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program after some consultation with then president Shirley Ort, who has become a lifelong friend. It was the beginning so many conversations with NASSGAP presidents on various issues related to the program and the States' needs. Then, there were the folks such as Stan Broadway of North Carolina and Frank Hynes of New York who were happy to teach (lecture?) me on the history and purpose of the SSIG Program. There were the many conversations with Chas Treadwell as the Federal liaison that hopefully were helpful to the members. We spent a late night reviewing the proposed National Early Intervention and Scholarship Program regulations (the forerunner of GEAR UP) at the executive committee meeting in Boise, and then I had to run my first and mercifully only discretionary grant competition. There was the steady stream of questions on how to close out the Douglas program. And I had the joy of working with Maureen Laffey of Delaware during the negotiations for the GAP Program regulations.

Also, there are my memories of the various NASSGAP conferences for reasons unrelated to business. I think that at at least two of them I found myself in the lap of the NASSGAP presidents, Shirley Ort and Sheila Joyner. A number of times I went dancing Winona Kahao of Louisiana. Ted Franzeim of Vermont and his son went with me to a homecoming game at my alma mater Tulane, and on another day we toured the campus. John Siegrist of Connecticut clearly in great pain laid his head down on the table right in front of me as I gave only my second Federal update the morning after we had journeyed to the Trapp family lodge in Vermont for the conference dinner (if only I had had a camera with me). At the Bar Harbor, Maine conference wonderfully organized by Nancy Wasson, I remember having lobster five ways while we were there and hiking along the

shore of Arcadia National Park with Jane Caldwell of Texas. We shared the Stanford Court Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco with the queen of Thailand. At White Fish, Montana, I got to do a lot of hiking in Glacier National Park and drove Jeanne Saunders through her first mountains (almost got her to a beautiful set of waterfalls when we hiked a trail waiting for the Garden Wall road to open to Logan Pass after snow that morning), and we met NASSGAP folks on Logan Pass when road opened. At Perdido Beach, Alabama, Bob Long of West Virginia and his wife showed up at the Halloween party dressed as the opposite sex, and I think I went every night after dinner to Floribama at the Florida/Alabama State line with members who should remain nameless. In Austin, Diane Barrans of Alaska and her husband Kelly went with me to have dinner at Oasis and watch sunset on Lake Travis.

There are so many other folks with whom I fondly remember working. These include in no particular order, Peggy Wipf of North Dakota; John Klacik and Linda Lamar of Washington; Mary Beth Kelly and Gary Smith of Pennsylvania; Judy Knapp of New Hampshire; Mary Ann Welch of Rhode Island; Terry Fox of New Jersey; Jeff Lee, Doug Collins, and Jim Beyer of Oregon; Liz Sweeney and Teresa Antworth of Florida; Dennis Obergfell of Indiana; Marilyn Cargill of Vermont; Ron Gambill of Tennessee; Mary Beth Sudduth and Phil Axelworth of Arkansas; Eddie Shannon of South Carolina; Jan Hilyer of Alabama; Jean Maday of Michigan; Lee Andes of Virginia; Cheryl Maplethorpe and Virginia Dodds of Minnesota; John Heisner of Iowa; Dan Peterson of Missouri; Lois Hollis and Gustavo DeLeon of Texas; Marilyn Quinn of Delaware; and Tom Rudd of Ohio. To me they are my friends as much as folks with whom I worked.

Again, thank you for this singular honor. The opportunity to working with NASSGAP members to help students pursue a postsecondary education will always be one of the high points of my Federal service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred H. Sellers", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Fred H. Sellers