ALASBO Recognizes two School Business Officials of the Year (SBO)

Each fall nominations are accepted for ALASBO’s prestigious School Business Official of the Year Award. The individual is selected by a committee of past recipients of the award based on the following three criteria:

1. How has the nominee assisted the school entity in maximizing its financial resources.
2. How has the nominee improved public relations through involvement in local community activities. 
   AND
3. How has the nominee’s commitment to the profession helped improve School Business Management at the local, state, and national and/or international level.

In an extraordinary move, the committee decided to make two SBO awards this year.

2018 SBO Recipient Amy Lujan  ALASBO surprised Amy Lujan early on the first day of the ALASBO Annual Conference with a School Business Official of the Year Award in recognition for her many years of service to ALASBO.

Amy has been involved with school business in Alaska for 25 years; she was the business manager for 7 years for the Kusruk School District in Aniak and for 7 years with Nome Public Schools. She also worked one year at the North Slope Borough School District. Amy left the role of executive director for ALASBO after 10 years serving the membership; she is the longest serving executive director in ALASBO’s history. Fortunately, Amy is still serving ALASBO as the associate executive director!

Amy has attended every ALASBO conference for the last 25 years. Prior to becoming ALASBO’s ED, Amy served as a board member in 1997 – 1998 and again 2002 – 2003 and as Secretary in 2004.

Since 2009 and under Amy’s leadership as executive director, ALASBO
- 2009 - Transitioned development of joint position statements with ACSA
- Worked with ASBO in support of Jenny Martens serving on the ASBO Task Analysis Panel that ultimately became ASBO’s SFO program
- 2010 - Adopted the ASBO Professional Standards and Code of Ethics
- Worked with ASBO in support of Jenny Martens and Dave Jones serving on the ASBO Certification Exam Committee and Dennis Niedermeyer serving on the Cut Score Committee for the SFO Program
- 2012 – Celebrated its 40th annual conference
- Established the Management Review Ad Hoc Committee to create a program to assist school districts
- 2014 – Introduced the ALASBO Improvement Model (AIM)
- 2015 – launched a new ALASBO website
- 2017 – Established the Chart of Accounts Ad Hoc Committee to recommend changes to the Alaska Uniform Chart of Accounts
- 2018 – Released Standard Operating Procedures template documents that were then integrated into the AIM tool
- Formed a DCR Forfeitures Ad Hoc Committee to resolve FY18 accounting issues
- Launched the New Business Manager Institute
2018 SBO Recipient Karen Goodwin  Information from the application submitted on Karen Goodwin’s behalf includes information from her superintendent, board president and a colleague. Karen’s superintendent shared that she consistently and tirelessly advocated on the district’s behalf in a financially sound manner. “When Karen first arrived at our district, she was faced with many audit findings and administrative challenges. But Karen’s great work ethic, adherence to rules and regulations, and pragmatic approach to business practices are evidenced by a host of marked improvements on the books.” “Karen was a champion for the district’s kids from the beginning and she spread goodwill in promoting their education. Karen’s adherence to district budget oversight and departmental efficiencies provided the essential benefits for student instructional programs.”

“Karen demonstrated professionalism, outstanding work ethic, high morals, integrity, and dedication to the profession.”

The president of the school board stated “As a school board member for eleven years, I have witnessed a profound improvement in the financial state of the district. This change can be attributed to Karen’s tireless efforts in demonstrating fiscal responsibility and operating an efficient and competent business office.”

Karen was so beloved by her staff that to this day one of her former staff members maintains a shrine to her that consists of the many items she brought back to her staff from her travels.

Karen continues to serve public education and students by mentoring, training and providing assistance and support to REAAs as well as serving as a mentor for the New Business Manager Institute.

Karen served on the ALASBO Professional Development Committee, Management Review Committee and Service Committee. In addition, Karen served as ALASBO’s historian, and was ALASBO’S secretary, vice-president and president from 2007 to 2009.

Amy Lujan and Karen Goodwin are great additions to the ranks of ALASBO’s School Business Officials of the Year recipients!

Plan to nominate someone for your district for consideration for this prestigious recognition program.