

OBERLIN

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Committee on Fellows
American Statistical Association

To the Committee:

I write to endorse Carl Lee's nomination of Milo Schield to be an ASA Fellow. I was surprised to find that Milo is not already a Fellow, given how much he has done for so many years.

Milo Schield has been a strong advocate for statistics education, and for a more statistically literate society, for decades. I have been impressed with Milo's energy and accomplishments, as he has organized sessions at meetings, has served on panels, has given talks, and has written widely about numeracy. Every time I attend a conference that includes a statistics education component (e.g., JSM) I expect to see Milo give a talk, or to have organized a session; often it is both.

Milo is a tireless promoter of statistics and quantitative literacy. Much of his scholarly work has been on statistical literacy, an area in which he has written dozens of papers, many of which are widely read and cited. Milo has also created a website, www.StatLit.org, that has had more than 1 million visits, providing links to papers, books, online tools, and other resources.

Milo always has something thought provoking to say. He is not content to just add another voice to the choir; he wants to change the perspective of his audience. Milo gets people thinking about how to teach, and more importantly what to teach. He challenges those who would teach the same topics, in the same ways, year after year. He adds to the list of ideas we should consider in statistics education and comes up with new ways to present important concepts, such as a graphical presentation of Simpson's Paradox.

In particular, I credit Milo with changing how I think about causal inference and observational data. It has become something of a mantra among statistics educators to say "It is impossible to say anything about cause-and-effect from

observational data." But that is not true. Milo has been pushing educators to think more broadly and to help their students understand how to think about causal relationships within observational data. It isn't easy to teach undergraduates about covariance, minimum effect size, and the like, but rather than back down from these challenges Milo finds a way to forge ahead. His work influences the rest of us.

We are fortunate to have such a tireless worker advancing the cause of statistics education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Witmer', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Witmer
Professor
Oberlin College
ASA Fellow