

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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February 15, 2018

To the awards committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Milo Schield for recognition as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. I first met Dr. Schield in 2009. He contacted me about work that I was doing with a journalism colleague related to the interaction of statistical literacy and journalistic narrative. Milo is a leader in promoting statistical literacy and numeracy, and I was pleased to connect with him.

Dr. Schield has taught traditional statistics at the undergraduate and graduate levels for over 30 years. He has spent more than 15 years developing expertise in teaching statistical literacy to students in non-quantitative majors: making statistical principles available for students who are not mathematically inclined. He began a focus on statistical literacy issues in 1995 with a six month residency at the Royal Statistical Society Centre for Statistical Education. Since then he was contributed graphical techniques to allow students to see the influence of binary confounder on an association between two rates or percentages; developed web-based software that reads ordinary English statements and gives feedback on user errors in using ordinary English to describe and compare rates and percentages presented in statements, tables and graphs, identified mathematical conditions necessary for a binary confounder to make a statistical association spurious when taken into account; identified elements of ordinary English that distinguish important statistical ideas such as association vs. causation, control of versus control for, conditional probability misconceptions; and produced more than 50 papers and delivered more than a hundred talks involving statistics or statistical literacy.

Dr. Milo Schield has provided national and international leadership in promoting statistical literacy and numeracy. His contributions include developing and maintaining the statistical literacy website statlit.org. This site is a great resource for anyone interested in developing, promoting and teaching good statistical thinking skills. He serves as an officer of the National Numeracy Network. In addition, he was the US representative to the International Statistical Literacy Project, organized as part of the International Association for Statistical Education. His statistical literacy interests are shared with his ASA colleagues by his frequent organization of JSM sessions (at least 17!).

Milo Schield is a leader in promoting statistical literacy and an educator whose contributions merit recognition as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Sincerely yours,

A. John Bailer, PhD

University Distinguished Professor and Chair

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