

July 20, 2021

Dear Joe Tarasovitch,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), I want to commend Lesa Scalise for completing the 2019-2020 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders. The purpose of this prestigious program is to build the knowledge and skills of special education leaders to lead special education services and supports to ensure success for all students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Each fellow was required to participate in multiple, skill-building sessions across the academic year that focused on practical application of current special education issues. Additionally, every fellow needed to complete a culminating project that was uniquely designed to meet the instructional or programmatic needs of his or her educational agency.

As a result of participation in this rigorous, year-long program, we believe that your educational agency has gained:

- A special education leader who is armed with the tools to develop and implement quality programs to improve the achievement of students with disabilities,
- A special education leader who is prepared to balance compliance and student achievement while working within the standards and policies of the profession, and
- A special education leader who is part of an expanded network of key practicing professionals and leaders with specialized knowledge and skills that can be used to continually improve their practice.

I want to personally thank you for your support and commitment to Lesa Scalise's participation in The Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders.

Sincerely,



Paula Schmitt.
Director