Who Created the MSLBD Logo?

The MSLBD logo of a sitting student was created in 1984 and first appeared on the 1985 MSLBD program. This logo has been used on all MSLBD brochures and materials since.

The logo was created at the request of Reece Peterson by Cliff Hollestelle who was an administrator, illustrator, and deaf educator at the Barkley Center, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He had a dual career for 32 years with his work at the Barkley Center and as a wildlife sculptor. The MSLBD logo was created quickly and had no intended specific meaning. Nevertheless, its tone may reflect the isolation, anxiety, or even depression of students with behavioral needs.

Although the MSLBD logo did not bring Hollestelle fame and fortune, his sculptures did! Hollestelle is an internationally acclaimed wildlife artist. In 1996, he became a full-time sculptor and has won numerous awards including “Best of Show” at the Ward Foundation World Championship in Ocean City, Maryland. Hollestelle has created full-size and miniature bird, waterfowl, and feather sculptures, some selling in the tens of thousands of dollars. His bronze sculptures are displayed across the United States. Photos of Hollestelle’s art can be found at: https://wildlifeltd.wordpress.com/. Additional information is included in Cliff Hollestelle, a Retrospective, published in 1970 by the University of Nebraska Press.