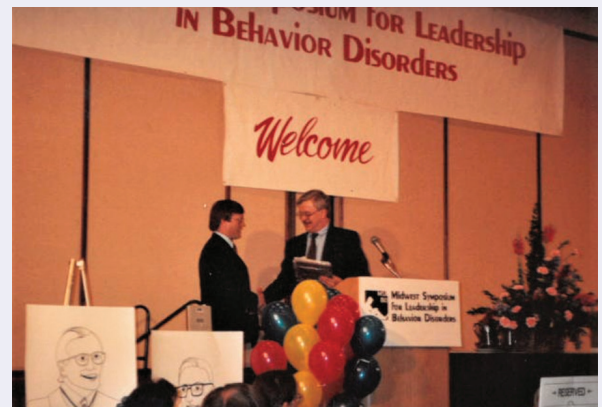


MSLBD Awards and Stipends

Awards

One of the MSLBD goals is to celebrate the work of educators who serve students with behavioral needs. MSLBD attempts to recognize the extraordinary activities of individual educators who work tirelessly to teach and support these students and who also develop the specialized programs, that serve these students. MSLBD has also tried to recognize some of those who advocate for programs and services, as well as some of the researchers, thinkers and leaders who contribute to our profession. To address these goals, the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders developed through time a set of awards.

- **The Outstanding Advocacy Award.** This advocacy award was created to recognize people who were providing leadership to change attitudes and policies related to working with students with behavioral needs at the national, state and/or local levels. From the initiation of this award in 2001 to 2021, this award has been given to six individuals.
- **The Outstanding Service/Leadership Award.** This award recognized key people who were providing leadership to the field through their service to the field and/or their research and teaching. From the initiation of this award in 1986 to 2021, thirty-one individuals have received the MSLBD Leadership Award.
- **The Outstanding Educator of Students with Behavioral Needs Award.** This award recognizes educational practitioners working in the schools in roles where they directly serve students with behavioral needs. To date, 30 individuals have received this award.
- **The Outstanding Building Leadership Award.** Initiated in 2006, the award recognizes a building level leader who has shown leadership in implementing or supporting staff, programs and services which support students with behavioral needs at the school building or district level. The award was initially bestowed as a part of the Conference for School Leaders on Behavior and will be continued. Six individuals have received this award.





- **The Outstanding Educator of Student with Autism Award.** With the initiation of the Simpson Autism conference in 2018, an award was designated for an educator who primarily serves students with autism spectrum disorders at the school or district level. To date, three individuals have received this award.

For these awards the recipients typically receive reimbursement of expenses to attend the conference where that person was recognized, along with a plaque which identified the award and the reasons for the award.



The Building Bridges Program Development Award

This award was initiated in 2001 to recognize a direct service program which was providing direct services to students with behavioral needs, and to provide a small amount of funds (\$500) which could be used to provide supplemental supports for that program. Typically, funds are used to purchase supplies and materials, but may be used to meet the needs of that program in whatever way that the program would find most helpful. Between 2001 and 2021 thirteen programs have been recognized with these awards in six different states. The Award is named after the first recipient program, the Building Bridges Program in St. Joseph Missouri.



Award Recipients

A complete list of all MSLBD Award Recipients can be found on the MSLBD website at: <https://mslbd.org/what-we-do/awards/>





Criteria and Making Nominations

Anyone may nominate individuals for any of these awards. The deadline date for most of these awards is typically November 1 each year. More detailed information about the criteria for each award, and procedures for making a nomination can be found on the MSLBD website at <https://mslbd.org/what-we-do/awards/>.

The Awards Committee, made up of MSLBD Planning Committee members analyzes the nomination materials and prioritizes nominees to choose award recipients. Note that not all awards may be bestowed each year based on the availability of funding and based on the number and quality of the nominations received.

Graduate Student Stipends

Additionally, the Planning Committee wanted to support graduate students who represented the next generation of leaders in our field. As a result, a master's and Doctoral level stipend were established. These typically included a \$500 stipend at the master's level, and a \$1,000 stipend at the doctoral level, but the amounts have varied over the years. For some years, more than one of each were awarded. So far 25 individuals have received doctoral stipends, and 35 individuals have received master's degree stipends. Several of the doctoral and master's degree stipend recipients have later become members of the MSLBD planning committee!



Awards Banquet

Prior to 1997 awards were given in the general sessions at the Symposium. In 1997, an award banquet was initiated for Symposium Planning Committee Members, and award recipients and their guests. That has occurred each year since. The banquet includes great



food, and a chance to celebrate our profession and the important work occurring in our field. During some of these banquets there were a variety of speakers and entertainment. Most of these banquets have featured live music, often provided by a local middle or high school musical groups, or other local musical groups.

