

THE FINAL WORD

AN UP AND COMING SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL'S TAKE ON THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

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A Fulfilling Career Path

I started my career in an unrelated field and then made the decision to stay home with my young children. This time away from full time work allowed me to think about what kind of career would fulfill me emotionally during the next few decades of my life. I realized that many children are not as fortunate as my own kids to have well-funded and quality schools in their community and that strong leadership is needed to advocate for educational improvements. I am thankful to the generations that have worked so hard to provide opportunities I can pass along to my children, and I am ready to pay it forward.

Making the CSBO Approachable

The most conspicuous role Illinois ASBO has played in my career is the partnership with NIU to provide affordable and approachable CSBO licensure courses for professionals in all stages of life. I hope this program continues to develop the next generations of SBOs. I look forward to being a part of a group that values colleagues and information sharing like I have not seen elsewhere. Everyone I have had the pleasure to meet at Illinois ASBO events seems to care about those who are just entering the profession and understands that providing guidance to aspiring business officials will allow their legacy to be felt for years to come.

Changing the Conversation

Public education has long been fighting a perception battle in local communities where the resources required to educate children are viewed as an expense rather than an investment. I hope SBOs can assist in moving the conversation toward positivity in funding the worthy investment of public education. Financially supporting high quality education in every community provides unimaginable returns to future generations. It may even be possible that funding public education at historically high levels and improving the earliest of social interventions could save taxpayers money when more kids become productive members of their communities.

Looking Into the Future...

While this is not exclusive to school business officials, I would like to see administrators take on a more supportive and service-oriented role in districts. Instead of directing from the top of the organizational chart and deciding how to best improve educational outcomes, I hope administrators can find more opportunities to ask teachers and other staff, "What do you need from me?" This is a difficult ask when time and resources are scarce, but I think we all can learn by supporting and listening to those who are working with children on a daily basis.

