

FACULTY RETIREE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2021

STEVEN D. SPANER, PhD

Steven D. Spaner, PhD, retired Professor in the College of Education has been chosen as the 2021 Retiree of the Year. Since retiring in 2002, Dr. Spaner has had a sustained engagement with the Retirees Association, including three terms as Secretary and over a decade as Treasurer. During his tenure with the Association, he has promoted retiree benefits at the local and System level and has worked with campus and Association leaders to evolve the Retirees Association into an Association that is attractive to all retirees.

In addition to his work with the Retirees Association, Dr. Spaner volunteered his time since retirement in mentoring several doctoral students through their dissertation process, including chairing dissertation committees. Through his specializing in quantitative research methods, his unique expertise was sought after by many doctoral students after his retirement from the faculty. He successfully brought these students, some of whom were not even University of Missouri-St. Louis students, through to successfully completing their doctoral degrees.

Lastly, Dr. Spaner has been instrumental in promoting and growing the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP). When he became aware of a need for SNAP activities and services in Australia, he personally went there at his own expense to train and organize a cadre of volunteers to service sexual abuse victims on that continent. He also sponsored other survivors to journey to Rome to seek justice from the Vatican itself. In the words of one his endorsements, “I feel confident in saying that Steve’s years of volunteering has saved lives...that he is a true ambassador for not only your university, but for the goodness that is present within the heart of humanity.”

It is for these reasons—continual and significant service to retirees, extraordinary service to doctoral students, post-retirement, and profound service to survivors of sexual abuse—that Dr. Steven D. Spaner is awarded the 2021 Retiree of the Year Award.

