



NABWIS

Susan M. Daniels - Distinguished Government Partner Award 2022 Annual Nomination Form



PURPOSE

To recognize outstanding government service in support of the profession of benefits planning by a state, federal or legislative partner. This award was established in 2021.

BACKGROUND

Dr. Susan M. Daniels was appointed as Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs at the Social Security Administration (SSA) by President Clinton. She was responsible for the direction and policy governing the Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability programs—Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. She led the policy and program management staff at SSA headquarters, Office of Hearings and appeals and a disability determination process in 54 state agencies with an administrative budget of more than \$1 billion with over 11,000 employees.

In 2007, Susan along with Dr. Thomas Golden, Executive Director of the Yang Tan Institute, and Mary Ridgely, former Director of ERI, Wisconsin created NABWIS to make Benefits Specialists a vital part of an individual with a disability's return to work as well as a true profession.

As Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs at SSA, Susan worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act. This act created employment incentives and healthcare provisions for workers with disabilities and removed many of the systemic barriers that forced many individuals with disabilities to choose between health coverage and work.

Susan was committed to disability rights advocacy and had significant impact as a senior policy maker to improving the lives of others with disabilities.

The award recipient will be provided:

- recognition at the 2022 NABWIS conference
- free admission to the 2023 NABWIS conference

ELIGIBILITY

- Elected or career public servant in national, state, and local governments.
- Has shown outstanding government service in support of the profession of benefits counseling and work incentive planning. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Promotion above and beyond their employment scope, in their agency and the community, for work incentive planning for individuals with disabilities.
 - Introduction of legislation or rulemaking promoting work incentives planning as a necessity for beneficiaries returning to work,
 - Contributed greatly through action, to the notion that benefits counseling and work incentive planning needs to be recognized as a valuable and true profession,
 - Developed a special project to assist in promoting benefits counseling and work incentive planning.

Susan M. Daniels – NABWIS Distinguished Government Partner Award

Deadline: August 31, 2022 by email to NABWIS@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY:

Name of person making the nomination

Mailing address

City, State, Zip

Area code and daytime phone

Email Address

Are you a NABWIS Member?

NOMINEE:

Name of Nominee

Area code and daytime phone

Title

Employer/elected position

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Email Address

EVALUATION (Supporting Information) - Attach separate sheet of paper if necessary

1. Briefly describe the outstanding government service or legislative work in support of benefits and work incentive counseling for individuals with disabilities. Please name the organization(s) directly impacted by these efforts. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Introduced legislation
- Established state policies or committees
- Created pathways within the federal government
- Instituted community access projects

2. Please attach a letter of support from a NABWIS member. This could include one of these individuals:
- Benefits and work incentive specialist
 - Project Director/Manager
 - Supervisor
 - Community Partner (e.g. VR Counselor, Employment Specialist, Case manager)

DEADLINE

Complete this form and submit with the letter of support by **August 31, 2022**

Submit nominations and questions to: NABWIS@gmail.com

THANK YOU!
Nominations and the winner will be recognized
during the October conference.