

2025 Lou Thompson Distinguished Service Award

The North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) is pleased to announce Heidi Kerns, Chief Finance Officer at Asheville City Schools as the recipient of the 2025 Lou Thompson Distinguished Service Award.

Her school finance career began over 30 years ago in the state of South Carolina, where she served for more than twenty years. After crossing state lines and becoming CFO of Rutherford County Schools, she served there for twelve years before heading to Asheville City Schools where she is currently CFO. Her wealth of experience provides her with a unique perspective, making her an invaluable asset to the school finance community.



Heidi Kerns with Asheville City Schools
Superintendent, Maggie Fehrman



Left to Right: April Dockery, Heidi Kerns,
Maggie Fehrman, Dr. Mark Dickerson

Heidi Faber Kerns is a resourceful colleague and embodies servant leadership, always going the extra mile. She willingly shares her wise and extensive knowledge. A lover of animals, Heidi is a devoted caretaker of senior dogs, having founded her own rescue organization, Sassy Old Seniors. Additionally, Heidi serves as a NC representative on the SASBO board of directors and co-chairs the Education Business Systems Advisory Committee (EBSAC) committee. Heidi's light shines brightly in our organization and in her community. Her contributions are countless, and her spirit of service is unparalleled.

History of the Award

Lou Thompson served the State of North Carolina and the Department of Public Instruction for 33 years working in various financial positions. Lou was a leader in improving the operations of school finance and epitomized the principle of fiscal integrity. She never compromised her principles in the execution of her responsibilities for fiscal accountability. When the decision was made by NCASBO's 1995-96 Executive Council to initiate a distinguished service award designed to annually recognize a NCASBO member who has made substantial contributions to improve the organization and the school business official profession, Lou Thompson was their unanimous choice to be the first recipient. The membership voted to name the award for their friend and mentor and thus the Lou Thompson Distinguished Service award has been presented annually to the member who typifies the qualities and leadership of Lou Thompson.