

Managing change as COVID wanes

With COVID becoming more manageable over the last twelve months, the team at SPAN has jumped at the opportunity to offer more in-person training and technical assistance opportunities again for the families and professionals we serve. The digital competencies that were honed during the pandemic have served them well and allowed for hybrid outreach opportunities and a mix of ways for us to reach those that need us most.



Change is a constant, it seems, and I'm so proud of how the dedicated teams at SPAN have managed unprecedented change with both professionalism and grace. No change has been more profound than the transition from long-serving, outgoing Executive Director, Diana Autin on January 1, 2023, to newly appointed Executive Director, Carolyn Hayer.

Carolyn's leadership of SPAN is already beginning to shine and with perfect timing. Our organization has never been larger, with the recent renewal of two cooperative agreements from the U.S. Department of Education at increased amounts.

This doesn't mean that we can rest on our laurels. We still need your help to cover expenses that our government funding will not. For instance, we will be moving our office location for the first time in over 25 years beginning on October 1, to a building two blocks away in Newark. Moving after such a long time will be costly and we could use your help with a donation of any kind.

I will close with a note of personal thanks. We could not have crossed the COVID bridge of the last three years without the hard work exhibited by all the dedicated professionals at SPAN, my Board of Trustee colleagues, nor without the support of our grantors, partners, and everyone else who keeps us going – supporters large or small.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Morel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Morel, CPCU, ARM
Board President, Board of Trustees
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network