

JUNE 6, 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGELA JERABEK, 2024 RECIPIENT OF THE JAMES BRYANT CONANT AWARD

Education Commission of the States is pleased to honor Angela Jerabek with the 2024 James Bryant Conant Award in recognition of her decades-long commitment to evidence-based success for students across the country.



Jerabek is the founder and executive director of BARR Center (Building Assets, Reducing Risks). BARR Center is a nationally recognized organization that offers schools a proven model to meet the needs of all students through the power of relationship building and data use.

Informed by her time as a high school counselor, Jerabek developed the BARR model to help schools address academic and non-academic barriers to student success. For the past 25 years,

Jerabek has led the development, evaluation and implementation of the BARR model in over 350 schools across 24 states — earning its spot as one of the most proven school improvement models in the country.

Schools have seen an average of 35% reduction in failure rates after one year using the BARR model. Teachers report increased satisfaction and effectiveness, students score higher in reading and math, opportunity gaps narrow for underrepresented students and chronic absenteeism decreases.

A nominator said, "Choosing programs that are rooted in relationships and evidence is critically important because that's our promise to students and their families. I have strongly encouraged school leaders ... [and] other states to get behind BARR, specifically because of its evidence."

Recently, Jerabek helped secure \$5 million in funding from the Minnesota State Legislature that is allowing 18 Minnesota schools — urban, suburban and rural — to implement the BARR system. Many states across the country are interested in following suit.

Jerabek's decades-long work is helping schools across the country create access to high quality education and meaningful relationships that address barriers to success and build on students' strengths.

Education Commission of the States will present Jerabek with the James Bryant Conant Award at the 2024 National Forum on Education Policy July 10-12 in Washington, D.C.

The James Bryant Conant Award is one of three awards that Education Commission of the States gives each year to celebrate outstanding commitment to public education. The others are the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation, which recognizes states or territories, and the Education Commission of the States Corporate Award, which recognizes a for-profit corporation or nonprofit organization.

For more information about Jerabek or BARR Center, contact [Hannah Furnald](#), creative officer at BARR Center.

For more information about Education Commission of the States or its awards, contact [Maryana Boatenreiter](#), communications manager.