

2021 IRENE CARR LEADERSHIP

AWARD



Once in a great while, we are blessed to count an individual among our ranks who is fully dedicated to our mission and embodies the very values CSEA was built upon. Irene Carr was one of those very special individuals. She served as Statewide Secretary for 17 years, trailblazing a path to bring women’s issues to the forefront of our work.

Irene was a fighter, both in her role as Local President and as CSEA’s Statewide Secretary. She recognized that “workers and family issues” (as she called them) needed to be prioritized by the union. Rather than wait for someone else to take the lead, Irene started CSEA’s very first Women’s Committee – a member-driven women’s advocacy group that is still in existence today. She also served as Chair of the AFSCME Women’s Advisory Committee for over a decade.

Irene believed in equal opportunities for all, and she didn’t stand idly by when she saw an opportunity to enact real change. She fought for training and job advancement opportunities, equity adjustments for women and minorities and the establishment of affordable and quality worksite child care centers for State employees. She was a leader, in every sense of the word, shattering all perceptions of what a “Secretary” was expected to accomplish in the organization.

Irene is an inspiration to us all, and this award in her name honors those trailblazers who continue her mission of defending and furthering the rights of women and families.

