**The Saint Anselm College Chapter of the AAUP**

**Presents**

**The Distinguished Faculty Award**

**to**

**Tauna Starbuck Sisco Ph.D.**

Each year the Saint Anselm College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors presents the Distinguished Faculty Award. The award reads: "For excellence in teaching and scholarship, contributions to the academic community through active and positive relations with colleagues and students, and an involved concern for humanity."

Where does one begin when talking about this year's recipient? If something is happening on this college campus, this individual is sure to be involved. They are the model of mentorship, collegiality, teaching, and academic leadership. They have selflessly served in extremely demanding leadership roles that were vitally important in shaping the College and done so with a combination of compassion, justice, and honesty. Their teaching regularly earns them the unofficial award we all dream of receiving: students who excitedly describe how a class changed how they think about the world. One student shared the following: "They are one of the few essential, beautiful people in this world who hold such a vast breadth of knowledge and have the humility and courage to wield this knowledge wisely. They are an advocate both inside and outside the classroom. I hope to emulate the dedication, enthusiasm, and mentorship to the service of others that I see them demonstrate every day. They make Saint Anselm College a brighter and more equitable place, and it has been an honor to be one of their students".

This individual joined the Saint Anselm College community in 2008 after a distinguished undergraduate and graduate career at Purdue University. As a political sociologist, her research interests include media studies of social problems, wartime effects on patriotic sentiment, gender and politics, and rhetoric of ambivalence and public policy concerning the homeless. She is a widely published author of multiple articles, chapters, and books focused on her ongoing research of these topics. She is committed to undergraduate, interdisciplinary research and has presented with Saint Anselm students at many conferences. Her dedication to the College is exemplary. Year after year, she plays an integral role in ensuring the future of the College as an educator, researcher and active member of this community through her work with the Faculty Senate, many college committees and as a department chair.

This individual’s spirit and tenacity emerged at a young age. Her parents share she was an extremely bright child, sensitive, self-dependent and a natural leader. She embraced life with a gentle, but tenacious hand. Her spirit shone through daily whether it was climbing up on top of her house in Brownsburg, IN at four years old to help her father shingle the roof or winning divisional championships with her St. Malachy Shamrock kickball team. After talking to her husband, Jim, and her parents, Vicki and John, it is clear that tradition and family are of the utmost importance to this year’s recipient. Her family, who is here today, speak to how she loves Saint Anselm College and the Benedictine community and how that love is reflected in her commitment and work ethic. She thinks of this community as part of their family. Her parents also shared “God created a special soul in her. Her exuberance for life is inspirational. She motivates others to be the best of themselves”.

It's my great pleasure to present the 2022 American Association of University Professors Distinguished Faculty Award to Professor of Sociology, Dr. Tauna Starbuck Sisco.