Susie Hakansson is Recipient of the Walter Denham Memorial Award

Susie Hakansson, a long-time member of NCSM, is this year’s recipient of the Walter Denham Memorial Award from the California Mathematics Council. Susie has championed mathematics education tenaciously in the face of continuous challenges: political, philosophical, and budgetary. She has built an advocacy network of mathematics organizations and mathematics leaders in California and throughout the country to serve the needs of students, teachers, teacher leaders, and mathematicians.

As the Executive Director of the California Mathematics Project since 1999, Susie supports and upholds the quality of the work of each project. She personally visits every project during institutes. As director, she understands the goals of each project, helps to make connections and find resources, and supports in accomplishing goals. She has mathematics project conferences for teachers and teacher leaders to learn how to support English Language Learners. She became an active founding member of TODOS, serves as a member at large on their board, and sets up and works the TODOS booth at many conferences around the country. The mathematics project presently conducts English Language Development Institutes in mathematics content.

Susie is the glue that connects mathematics leaders and organizations in California. Her generosity with her time is a gift that we all grow from. She is equally generous with sharing resources and providing endless opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills. She has accepted the challenge of making sure every student in California has a qualified teacher and every teacher has the opportunity to grow and be successful.