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July 31, 2015

TO: SPaRC Award Nomination Committee

FROM   Sandra S. Moulton

RE: SPaRC Collaboration Award
                 Nominees: Grants and Contracts Office - Jayne Goby and Amy Roessler
                                     Administrative Information Technology Services - Mike
                                     Nevill

I am pleased to nominate Jayne Goby, Amy Roessler and Mike Nevill to receive the 2015
SPaRC Collaboration Award.

Amy, Jayne and Mike frequently partner to tackle challenging projects that require strong
business acumen and a deep comprehension of the underlying relational tables of the
Banner Financial System, including the Banner Grants Module. Their individual skills and
experience make them uniquely qualified when creative solutions are needed to overcome
complex data challenges.

Before describing two examples of their successful collaboration to support the
nomination, I want to share details of their professional qualifications to enable the
committee to fully understand the depth and breadth of their individual talents.

Amy began her University of Illinois career in August 1999 as a Resource and Policy
Analyst in the Grants and Contracts Office (GCO) Post-Award Private Section. Her early
experience gained while in this position and later as the Section Head, enabled her to
obtain first-hand knowledge of the University's policies and business processes, sponsored
project regulatory guidance, and the campus customers' needs. When the University
determined the legacy financial system (UFAS) had outlived its useful life, Amy was
invited to join the UI-Integrate Banner Implementation Project as a GCO Team member.
As a member of this important initiative, Amy contributed greatly to the success of the
project. The deep system and technical expertise she gained while working on the project
served as the foundation for the expanded role she currently holds today as Associate
Director of Data and Enterprise Systems.

Grants and Contracts Office, Post-Award Administration – Office of Business and Financial Services
1901 South First Street, Suite A, MC-685 • Champaign, IL 61820-7406
Phone (217) 333-2186 • Fax (217) 239-6821 • E-mail gcopostuiuc@uillinois.edu

Jayne joined GCO as the Coordinator of Sponsored Project Compliance in August 2000. Her early role as audit liaison and her later responsibilities in the areas of audit oversight and policy guidance enabled her to acquire a deep knowledge of sponsored project administration and the related federal regulations. While acquiring this knowledge, Jayne was also gaining exceptional data management skills. Jayne's comprehension of the underlying relational tables of the Banner Financial System, and specifically the Banner Grants Module, is impressive. The combination of her exceptional technical skills, her accounting and audit expertise, and her sponsored project knowledge serve her well in her current role as GCO's Associate Director of Policy and Data Management.

Mike joined the University in 2001 as a member of the UI-Integrate Banner Implementation Project Team and worked on both the Student Team and the Finance Team. Before joining the University, Mike gained experience as an Analyst at A. E. Staley and later for eight years he was a Senior Consultant at Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. After the 2003 Banner Go-Live date, Mike was the Team Lead for the UI-Integrate Student Records and Registration Appworx Team for a one-year period. Mike then transitioned in 2004 to the AITS Technical Applications Management (TAM) team as an Enterprise Systems Specialist supporting the Finance systems. In 2007, Mike was promoted to Assistant Director and accepted responsibility for leading the AITS TAM Finance Team; he continues in this role today.

On a daily basis, Amy's, Jayne's, and Mike's responsibilities have significant impact and support the University community at-large. All participate in a number of complex projects and initiatives as either a consultant or a subject-matter-expert with Amy and Jayne representing the sponsored project perspective and Mike representing the technical perspective. They routinely collaborate to develop creative and robust solutions to the University's data management challenges. Two project examples that illustrate their collaborative efforts follow:

Example #1 – STAR METRICS®
Assigned by the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research, "The STAR METRICS® Level I activity was a partnership between science agencies and research institutions to document a partial set of science investment outcomes to the public. In support of the White House's directives for open and transparent government, the STAR METRICS® program sought to provide a common empirical data and analytic infrastructure for recipients of federal R&D funding to facilitate the sharing of data, interpretation of results, and to understand what 'impacts' federal funds spent for R&D." (About STAR METRICS[1])

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[1] https://www.starmetrics.nih.gov/Star/About

The goal of Level I was to develop uniform, auditable and standardized measures of the impact of science spending. The project work undertaken by Amy, Jayne and Mike was complex and required the highest level of technical and systems skills available within the University. They spent countless hours over many months to develop complex queries, validate the output, and analyze the data to ensure the University of Illinois' submission as accurate, reliable and formatted in the prescribed reporting categories specified in the STAR METRICS® documentation. (About STAR METRIC S[2])

Example #2 – NSF OIG Data Analytics Audit
When the University of Illinois was first notified by the NSF OIG (OIG) in June 2013, Amy and Jayne quickly determined the volume of transactional data requested would require system processing capacity beyond that available within GCO. Amy, Jayne and Mike collaborated to develop the complex queries required to extract the voluminous datasets required to support the OIG audit of NSF award expenditures totaling $435.2 million charged by the University during the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.

Mike ran the queries to extract and compile the data requests. The resulting data output was analyzed and validated by Amy and Jayne. This labor intensive activity was performed over a period of approximately 6 months, and was completed while also ensuring their normal unit operational activities, special project assignments, and Fiscal Year-End Close activities were completed without interruption. The resulting datasets were determined to be accurate and submitted within the timelines required by the OIG, thereby enabling Ruth Boardman to lead the GCO Audit and Compliance Team and Campus through the balance of the NSF OIG Data Analytics Audit activities.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with Amy, Jayne, and Mike. Their collective approach to daily operational challenges and long-term projects always begins with the customers' needs as the highest priority. They embrace every opportunity as senior leaders to inform, educate and mentor their colleagues and junior staff.

I respectfully submit Amy, Jayne and Mike as candidates most worthy to receive the 2015 SPaRC Collaboration Award.

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[2] https://www.starmetrics.nih.gov/Star/About