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28 July 2015

Dear SPaRC Outstanding Service Award Committee:

It is my pleasure to nominate Ms. Torie Strole for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Torie started working at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) in 1994 and has made significant impacts on the functionality of the ISGS Grants and Contracts office ever since where she is the senior staff member. By way of example of the magnitude of impact Torie's work represents, her office has been responsible for submitting more than 150 proposals since 2010, 68 of which have been awarded for more than \$61 million. She has also managed an extremely large US Department of Energy grant through three major research phases through the entire pre-award and post-award stages representing research funding of \$100 million since 2003.

Torie is instrumental in the submittal process for new grants. She helps build budgets, educates staff on contracting procedures, and serves as an interface between staff and the University. In many cases, Torie has taught early career researchers how to prepare and submit grants. Her innate skill at paying attention to detail, remaining calm in the trenches, and being extremely patient make her an ideal service provider for researchers. She also works across campus with a variety of professionals to ensure auditing, compliance, procurement, and other grant activities are fulfilled to the highest degree of quality.

Torie also works with staff on the post-award management of grants and contracts. In this role, she maintains much of the institutional knowledge necessary for grant management. She also works with staff to ensure that proper spending and accounting are undertaken.

Torie is dedicated to the University and always manages her time to ensure that her responsibilities are covered. In fact, Torie's experience is often shared with the University community through presentations and collaborations with co-workers. She recently completed the SPaRC certification training this past year and is a Certified Research Administrator. Her experience is highly valued as demonstrated by the request for Torie to present to the SPaRC program on the work that she does. Additionally, she has served on University improvement committees.

In summary, Torie has made contributions to the research community of the ISGS and University span more than 20 years. She is dedicated to her job, the ISGS mission, and the overall good of the University.

Please give Ms. Torie Strole your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sallie E. Greenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sallie E. Greenberg
Associate Director, Advanced Energy Technology Initiative

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July 30, 2015

Dear SPaRC Outstanding Service Award Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of endorsement for Torie Strole. She is a valued member of my staff at the Illinois Geological Survey. I have had the pleasure of working with Torie for the past three years. She is my trusted “right hand” for financial matters, whether it be contract related or other funding.

Torie is well respected by the scientists here at the Survey. She has gained their respect by being efficient, dedicated, accurate, trustworthy, focused, considerate, knowledgeable, hard-working, and invested in their success. It is not unusual for a researcher to stop by and tell me about how patient Torie has been with them and how they truly appreciate all of the time and effort that she puts toward their projects. It is not unusual for Torie to work evenings and weekends so that proposals are completed correctly and on time.

Torie works the contracts from cradle to grave in our office for several large projects. She was instrumental and very “hands on” in guiding the submissions of proposals to the Department of Energy proposal for Dr. Robert Finley. These contracts have brought in more than \$100 million in research funding for carbon dioxide storage projects in collaboration with Archer Daniels Midland Company in Decatur.

Given that Torie works on both the submission and the completion of projects, she has great awareness of the policies that govern spending and monitors contracts to guarantee that they are compliant. She is not afraid to have the “hard conversations” with PI’s when they want a purchase rushed or special treatment for their project. I have confidence in her, knowing that she handles work so that a positive outcome for the Survey and the researcher is always at the forefront of her thoughts.

I have encouraged Torie to participate in groups on campus. She just recently completed the SPaRC’Ed courses and is now a UIUC Certified Research Administrator. While participating in the classes, Torie was also part of a group that presented a session on Sub-Awards and budgeting, this shows that Torie is known and respected for her work on large projects. She is also an active member of the Research Administration Advisory Board and is attending the National Council of University Research Administrators Annual Meeting this August.

In summary, I feel that Torie is very deserving of this award and hope that you give her your highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mona Knight".

Mona Knight
Assistant Director for Administration