

**College of Engineering**

Engineering Business Services Center  
2250 Digital Computer Lab, MC-279  
1304 W. Springfield  
Urbana, IL 61801

July 25, 2018

Dear SPaRC Awards Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write to you to support the nomination of Geoffrey Dehler for the 2018 Outstanding Service Award. Geoff has been a valued member of the University staff for over ten years and has dedicated eight years of his tenure to research administration.

Geoff began his career at the University in 2008 as an Account Receivables Specialist for Student Financial Services. While the daily tasks performed in this role were not directly related to research administration, he was able to enhance his problem solving and customer service skills that would benefit this campus when he transitioned to research administration. In 2010, Geoff was welcomed by the Sponsored Programs team as a Proposal Coordinator. He became a pillar of consistency and delivered quality results. He developed into a knowledgeable resource for the Proposal team, as well as the departments that he supported. He was thorough in his proposal review and was able to effectively communicate to his customers what was needed for successful proposal submissions. Geoff did not compromise his quality of work despite the large volume of proposals that he commonly encountered. He was able to consistently process large volumes of proposals, with compressed timelines while maintaining accuracy and extreme professionalism.

In addition to Geoff's contributions as a proposal coordinator, he continues to contribute to the research community at Illinois through his involvement with the SPaRC program. Geoff has drafted materials and facilitated courses for the SPaRC' Ed program. His experience, knowledge and ability to disseminate information effectively are just a few of the reasons why he is invited to teach courses each year. Geoff has also presented multiple times at the SPaRC Retreat that is held annually. Regardless of the role that he is in on this campus, Geoff continues to remain engaged in gathering and disseminating information that will enhance the research community at Illinois.

In 2017, Geoff embarked on a new adventure when he transitioned from the central office to a departmental grants office; he accepted a position with the department of Computer Science. His primary focus was to leverage the knowledge and experience gained as a proposal coordinator and work with faculty to develop and submit their proposals. His experience and proven work performance made Geoff an ideal candidate to participate in the proposal submission delegate program. Not only did he agree to participate in this program, which was beneficial to Sponsored Programs and Computer Science, he was also instrumental in identifying necessary processes and procedures to ensure the program's success. Geoff recognized the opportunity that the delegated submission program offered and consistently submitted the highest number of qualifying proposals.

Geoff is constantly evaluating processes and procedures to ensure that they are current and effective for the benefit of his team and the faculty that he supports. His work ethic and commitment to taking care the customer are evident in his work product and engagement with the research community. He is

genuine in his interactions with other and is always willing to be a team player and lend a hand. Regardless of the title that Geoff holds, he is recognized as a leader in research administration at the University of Illinois and is deserving of the 2018 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Missy Beck-LeFaivre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Missy Beck-LeFaivre  
Assistant Director Grant and Contracts, EBSC



## **SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION**

1901 S. First St., Suite A, MC-685  
Champaign, IL 61820-7406

July 25, 2018

Dear SPaRC Awards Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Geoffrey O. Dehler for this year's SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Geoff is a tireless advocate for the entire sponsored program community on our campus.

Geoff is an expert in sponsored programs, and is also eager to share his knowledge. He was part of the inaugural class of the SPaRC'Ed program where he earned his Illini CRA. He continues to serve as a frequent instructor for SPaRC'Ed, including Proposal Preparation, Advanced Proposal Preparation, and the inaugural course of Introduction to USDA. Geoff is also involved with the annual SPaRC Retreat; he leads Department Roundtable discussions, and, this year, will even present a plenary session.

As a member of what is now known as Sponsored Programs Administration, Geoff was a mentor for the Proposal Coordinator team, both formally to onboard new staff as well as informally in day-to-day interactions. What is most impressive about Geoff's mentorship is that he was always willing and able to the "why" along with the "how". In addition, Geoff skillfully guided the Proposal Coordinator team in the transition from UIeRA to the database behind the myResearch Portal and myProposals. Finally, Geoff gracefully led the team during a leadership transition and a very challenging staff vacancy period.

Although Geoff left SPA in 2017, he continues to serve the sponsored program community at-large. As a proposal submission delegate of SPA, Geoff helped define and refine the procedures necessary to make this delegation work well. He is also a pilot user of myProposals, and has and will continue to provide invaluable feedback on how to make the system work for everyone on campus. Geoff also helped establish a process to execute a Small Business Subcontracting Plan, and kick-started the development of a process for research collaborations involving individuals from the European Union, that is, compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Finally, and perhaps what is his most impressive skill, Geoff always seems to strike the perfect balance to be an advocate for both the investigators in his unit as well as compliance with institutional policies and procedures.

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Geoff is a humble and tenacious leader in the sponsored programs community. He is always willing to go the proverbial extra mile both to accomplish the task before him, but also to document and share what he learned in order to complete that task. The name Geoff Dehler is synonymous with Outstanding Service, and I hope the Selection Committee agrees and bestows to Geoff this prestigious award in 2018.

All the best,



Brian P. Rogers  
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Sponsored Programs Administration  
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