



July 31, 2025

Dear Members of the SPaRC Awards Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Barb Godlew for the 2025 SPaRC Award for Outstanding Service. Barb's unwavering dedication to faculty research development is unparalleled, and makes her an ideal candidate for this recognition.

In her role as Director of Research Education and Programming, Barb has demonstrated outstanding service to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and the broader research community. She leads the ACES Research Academy, a signature initiative that supports early-career faculty in establishing robust research programs and building collaborative networks. Under her guidance, the Research Academy offers a carefully structured curriculum that includes an intensive Grantsmanship Workshop, meetings with federal program officers, and expert-led sessions on a wide range of topics – from research ethics and conflict management to navigating pre- and post-award processes. Through this work, Barb has created a meaningful and lasting impact on the development and long-term success of our faculty.

Beyond the Research Academy, Barb plays a critical role in supporting faculty across all stages of proposal development. She goes above and beyond in her efforts – carefully reviewing RFAs from various funding agencies and thoughtfully matching opportunities to faculty interests and expertise. Her consultations are insightful and encouraging. Once a proposal effort is underway, she provides timelines, helpful templates, and thorough reviews to ensure competitive submissions. Her reviews reflect not only her attention to detail, but also her genuine interest in the success of others. She also helps administer the Future Interdisciplinary Research Explorations (or FIRE) program – an internal seed funding initiative designed to foster creativity and collaboration among interdisciplinary teams led by ACES researchers as they pursue exploratory ideas with strong potential for future external funding.

Barb's strengths in research development, communication, and grantsmanship have made her an indispensable resource in ACES. Her efforts have directly enhanced the capacity of our faculty to secure funding and pursue impactful research aligned with our land-grant mission. She exemplifies the spirit of collaboration, mentorship, and service that the SPaRC Outstanding Service award seeks to recognize.



I strongly recommend Barb for this well-deserved honor. Her contributions to research development and administration have been well-received and highly valued, and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,

Amanda Lombardo
Director, Strategic Research Planning
ACES Office of Research