



SPaRC Awards Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Katie Bateman for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award, in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to research administration at the University.

I have had the honor and pleasure to work with Katie since she started in Sponsored Programs Administration in 2018 as a Proposal Coordinator. I knew immediately she would excel in her role in SPA as she has a very strong work ethic and takes the role very seriously. Katie continues to show her dedication day in and day out.

Katie consistently demonstrates unwavering dedication, exemplary work ethic, and a commitment to the Proposal Team, SPA, and the research administration community. She consistently offers to assist the Proposal Team when the overall proposal volume has been imbalanced, and the workload of other members exceeds her own. During these times she still maintains a high level of customer service. Katie ensures she is available for her direct department units on top of staying available for the individuals that directly report to her. Katie cares about each Proposal Team member regardless of if they report to her or not. She wants to know how everyone is doing whether work related or personal.

Katie takes it upon herself to investigate ways to improve our processes and procedures. Katie displays an extraordinary commitment to service, tirelessly volunteering her time, skills and resources to help the research community. She is highly regarded by the departments she works with and often is reached out to by other units for guidance.

Katie embodies the true spirit of outstanding service. Katie possesses an innate ability to motivate and empower her team members, fostering an environment of collaboration, creativity, and mutual respect. Katie leads by example, always displaying integrity, humility, and genuine concern for the well-being and professional develop

Sincerely,

Stephanie Fellmann

Stephanie Fellmann
Associate Director, Proposals
Sponsored Programs Administration

SPaRC Awards Committee,

I am writing to nominate Katie Bateman for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Katie's knowledge, dedication, and judgement, and have significantly elevated our faculty's experiences at ECE in proposal development and submission.

Katie's positive influences on our proposal submissions are numerous. Her expertise has been pivotal in guiding the ECE department through several intricate proposals. Notably, she played a crucial role in a \$75 million NASA stand-alone mission opportunity—I believe this is the first successful proposal of its kind for our campus. This proposal, spanning over 900 pages, demanded meticulous attention to detail, and Katie ensured its excellent preparation and compliance with all requirements.

Beyond her technical prowess, Katie's friendly and approachable demeanor fosters a positive relationship with faculty, staff, and sponsors. She consistently goes above and beyond to address inquiries promptly and is always willing to take a quick phone call. Whether it's a late submission or an unusual proposal arrangement, her willingness to understand and provide thoughtful feedback sets her apart.

Balancing adherence to strict guidelines and policies with flexibility in working with researchers is a delicate art in research administration. Katie excels in this regard. She strikes a great balance, avoiding unnecessary roadblocks in submissions while ensuring reasonable accountability. Her risk assessment and judgment are outstanding, resulting in more efficient reviews and grateful researchers.

Katie Bateman embodies the spirit of outstanding service. Her commitment to excellent customer service has a direct impact on our research activities. I highly recommend Katie for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,



Scott Corum, Assistant Director of Sponsored Projects
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

July 9, 2024

Dear SPaRC Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Katie Bateman for the SPaRC Outstanding Service award. For many years, I had the pleasure of working closely with Katie when she was the Proposal Coordinator for the School of Chemical Sciences (Department of Chemistry, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering).

Katie is always a delight to work with. She is willing to listen and find answers and solutions to those odd situations that inevitably come up with sponsored research. She is willing to walk you through a hard-to-understand item, whether it's sponsor guidelines or a complex budget. I have always appreciated her positive energy, even when having to deal with the stress that comes with the position. She does everything she can in order to make sure that proposals make it out the door, even when deadlines are looming. SPA is truly fortunate to have her on their team!

Even though our Proposal Coordinator has changed, I still know that I can reach out to her with questions or concerns when needed.

For these reasons, I believe Katie should be recognized for the SPaRC Outstanding Service award.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Osterbur

Susan L. Osterbur
Senior Sponsored Research Business Analyst
School of Chemical Sciences

July 2, 2024

SPaRC Awards Committee,
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

I am excited to support the nomination of Katie Bateman, Assistant Director of Proposals at Sponsored Programs Administration, for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

I have worked with Katie in a couple of different capacities. Katie has been our assigned Proposal Coordinator for most of my time in the department and I have also presented SPaRC courses with her. In all my interactions with Katie she has been the definition of team player. She brings knowledge, professionalism, experience, ideas, and a good energy to everything she does.

Katie's knowledge, attention to detail and friendly nature has been my saving grace on numerous occasions. I trust her guidance implicitly and if she does not know the answer or thinks I have raised a genuine concern, she gets right to researching the issue to help find a solution. She is my go-to resource for all things Pre-Award. Katie consistently provides quick and accurate information with a smile and usually a note of encouragement.

Katie is always thorough and somehow manages to make you feel as if your proposal is most important one she is working on. She is reliable and will always communicate her suggestions and concerns. Even when we are down to the wire, she has been the calming voice of reason and will do anything she can to help the situation. Recently, we had a submission that was down to the last 30 minutes and did not appear to be transmitting properly, Katie stepped up and emailed the Program manager and submitted a help ticket to make sure we addressed the situation ahead of deadline. She followed it up with a phone call to tell me the final version she pulled looked good. I cannot tell you how much her calm professional demeanor and quick thinking helped that situation. This extra effort is not unusual for her, she has proven she will do anything she can for a positive outcome.

Katie is an absolute joy to work with, but beyond that she has extensive knowledge and understanding of our sponsors, the systems, and sponsored research. Her commitment to the University, SPA, and all departments she works with is unmatched. I am grateful to her for her support of our faculty. I believe Katie is deeply deserving of the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,

Brittany Stein
Brittany Stein

Dear Awards Committee,

I am pleased to publicly share my overall support and appreciation for my Proposal Coordinator, Katie Bateman by writing this letter in support of her nomination for the Outstanding Service Award. She has been my Proposal Coordinator for many years, though there was a period of time in which I was assigned to another Coordinator. I remember the day I was called by Katie's supervisor to break the news gently that I would be reassigned from Katie, a most disappointing phone call that I still remember vividly.

However, our professional connection remained, and blessedly, I have been reassigned to her. While I try to send in complete and compliant proposals, I know and trust that Katie's keen eyes will find anything that I may have overlooked. It is rare that she submits a proposal without discussing with me its contents, a plan, or corrections that need to be made.

Katie's demeanor is the perfect combination of calm level-headed thinking, a sense of urgency when needed, and the ability to make quick but high quality decisions. Most importantly, she is never judgmental or condescending, even though I know my sometimes last-minute proposals must frustrate and complicate her workload.

Katie has never missed a deadline for my department, and to my knowledge, has never submitted a non-compliant proposal. When one considers the volume of her workload, this is truly astonishing, and reflects her the value she adds to our research community.

Our faculty have a mission to do research at the forefront of science and engineering, and they do it everyday. But without Katie's guidance, we quite literally could not take the first step of obtaining funding to do this world-changing research. And with respect to all of Katie's proposal coordination colleagues, there's no one I'd rather team with to support our faculty.

Thank you for considering her for this award.

Sincerely,



Allison Sutton

Assistant Head for Administration
Materials Science and Engineering
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THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Engineering Business Services Center
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1304 W. Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

July 10, 2024

Dear SPaRC committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Katie Bateman for the Outstanding Service award in recognition of her exceptional service in research administration.

Katie has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication and proficiency in her role as Assistant Director Proposals, significantly contributing to the success of the advancement of research initiatives at the University of Illinois.

As a Grants & Contracts coordinator, I have worked closely with Katie for several years. Katie always has a calm and professional approach to problem solving, which is key in the world of research administration. One of her key strengths from my perspective is she is extremely knowledgeable and always willing to brainstorm and collaborate on tricky submissions. I can remember more than one occasion when I had to call upon Katie, with a very short turnaround and complex situation and she always ensured we got the job done.

I have had the pleasure of having Katie as my primary proposal coordinator for a while now, and I know I can always count on Katie to get the proposal submitted and help us make sure the PI is submitting the best possible proposal to the sponsor. Katie is the true definition of outstanding service and is more than deserving of this recognition.

My Best,

Andrea Vogel

Andrea Vogel

July 30, 2024

Dear Evaluation Committee:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Katie Bateman for the 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award, in recognition of her outstanding service in support of research administration at Illinois.

I have worked with Katie for many years during my tenure at the university. She has been the SPA Proposal Coordinator assigned to several of the units I have supported over the years. I have come to depend on Katie when I need an answer to a question that I am unable to find myself. Katie is always helpful and takes the time to answer my calls, or respond to my emails, even during SPA's busiest times. I know I can count on her for help when I need it most. I rely on her frequently as my go-to source for information from SPA. She is a highly valued resource for me and my colleagues.

You can tell that Katie truly cares about assisting her colleagues and constituents across campus by the way she handles every communication and contact with her. She takes pride in her work and goes above and beyond on a routine basis and makes it a priority to help everyone. She is very thorough and detail-oriented. When I submit a proposal to SPA for review, I know that it is in good hands with Katie. If I missed something, or there are changes needed, I know she will catch it and provide an in-depth explanation of the steps to take to rectify the situation. The service level that Katie provides is hard to match.

Many within the research administration field view Katie as a leader. She is extremely knowledgeable, eager to take on any challenge, and always reliable. Katie never shies away from a complicated problem or a difficult situation and makes every effort to resolve matters in a timely manner. She also continuously strives for professional development. Through attendance at conferences and workshops, participation in SPaRC'ed presentations, and taking on many different ad-hoc tasks and miscellaneous roles within SPA, she has shown her eagerness to be a leader for SPA and to take the next step in her professional career.

Katie is a prime example of outstanding service. She has positively affected many faculty and staff on the Illinois campus and beyond. I believe she is a deserving candidate for the 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,

Geoff Dehler