

July 29, 2021

RE: SPaRC Outstanding Service Award Nomination for Kevin Frerichs

Dear 2021 SPaRC Retreat Committee:

I nominate Kevin Frerichs, Assistant Director, Non-Federal Awards with Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Kevin exemplifies dedicated leadership and service to the Illinois research community from his April 2011 start as a central post-award administrator for State of Illinois awards and throughout his ten plus years of sponsored programs support at the University of Illinois. He tirelessly works to provide direction and resources that bring about the greatest combined benefit for researchers, department personnel, and our sponsors. Kevin provides outstanding service within all areas of his role, and most notably through his intense customer focus, impressive job knowledge, clear communication, teamwork and continuous improvement, and strong commitment to his responsibilities and those he serves.

Customer Focus

Kevin, always service-minded, approaches interactions with researchers, departments, and sponsors in a professional and conscientious manner. He prioritizes the delivery of full assistance and detailed guidance for all PI and department requests. For example, Kevin often consults with other SPA and university groups to ensure he and his team provide thorough instruction that addresses multiple options whenever possible. Thus, department colleagues and PIs routinely seek his input on financial and administrative matters related to sponsored awards. Kevin intently hears out all department concerns and responds through exploration of alternatives that support equally high compliance with sponsor and university requirements. He encourages constant knowledge sharing between university research administrators as both a regular SPaRC'Ed and OBFS course facilitator. Kevin frequently interacts with his staff to support their continuous development and promote consistently high service levels from his team, as well.

Job Knowledge

Kevin expertly oversees a team of SPA Non-Federal Award Management staff responsible for post-award administration of the State of Illinois portfolio and approximately half of the private domestic sponsored awards, as well. Since the transition to two balanced Non-Federal teams in January 2020, Kevin demonstrates his ability to effectively oversee a significantly larger award portfolio and apply his State of Illinois expertise to guide his team on the nuances of private awards, as well. He continues to serve as SPA's main point of contact for all State of Illinois post-award matters, and directly administers more complex state awards such as the IDOT Illinois Center for Transportation. Kevin also reviews and enters all financial data for the annual State of Illinois Consolidated Year-End Financial Report (CYEFR) in coordination with leaders from all three Universities. Due to his proactive approach and strong organization on the initial FY18 CYEFR report, UIUC was well positioned to easily collaborate with UIC and UIS and quickly execute a plan to provide required reporting elements.

Communication

Kevin's excellent communication and calm approach bring about successful resolutions to a variety of award issues between sponsors and the university. He frequently reaches out to State of Illinois agency contacts via phone, especially for complicated scenarios when email may not be best. Kevin's well-documented expense justifications and perseverant follow-up allow the University to repeatedly obtain significant payment toward questioned project costs and delayed payment for both state and private awards. In addition, he carefully monitors for potential accounts receivable issues within his team's assignment and coordinates discussion among necessary parties to initiate elevated review and ongoing action where needed. Kevin also serves as the main contact for all state agency questions related to the annual CYEFR mentioned above. He coordinates these answers with UIC and UIS as needed, clearly articulates the appropriate justification in each instance, and resolves each question efficiently and to the sponsor's satisfaction.

Teamwork and Continuous Improvement

Kevin readily partners with other SPA experts to facilitate the implementation of new solutions, such as cost share system updates to allow for expanded systematic tracking of unique cost share scenarios. He actively participates in discussions and provides data related to improvements across the lifecycle, including additional guidance for departments in relation to F&A rates and cost share budgets at the proposal stage. Kevin's excellent collaboration with Michelle Ward, Assistant Director for the other SPA Non-Federal Award Management team, enables consistent interactions for departments and sponsors across both teams. His commitment to efficiency and process improvement, as evidenced by Kevin's constant reexamination of Award Management processes such as documentation methods and report formats, ushers impactful change for sponsored programs. For example, he led the creation of a crosswalk between State of Illinois GATA budget categories and Banner expense categories to better assist with budget preparation, invoice submission, and expense variance tracking.

Commitment

Kevin displays tremendous dedication to his responsibilities as both a post-award administrator and supervisor. He consciously evaluates SPA's work environment and tools to ensure his team receives the support needed to be satisfied and effective in their service role, as well. Kevin consistently puts in extra effort and time as needed to help meet all required deadlines. He models excellent habits for his team and continually puts forth the review and effort necessary to produce highly accurate work at both the team and individual level.

Please consider Kevin for this significant honor. He eagerly provides and encourages outstanding service as illustrated in the areas above, not for individual gain or achievement, but instead by a motivation to maintain excellence in sponsored programs administration and to assist others. I fully support and recommend Kevin for this award.

Sincerely,



Alison G. Morgan

Associate Director, Non-Federal Awards
Sponsored Programs Administration





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

1010 W. Nevada Drive, MC-082
Urbana, IL 61801-3813

July 9, 2021

I am pleased to support the nomination of Kevin Frerichs for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award!

The first email communication to Kevin I still have is from August 2015, right after I started at Prairie Research Institute (PRI). I had come from Mathematics, which was heavily National Science Foundation focused, so learning State grants was a challenge. Most of our awards were from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and it seemed that if there was an odd situation, we would find it. Kevin showed immense patience as we navigated issues of on-campus vs. off-campus F&A rates, the introduction of risk assessment forms, contributed effort, unreasonable audit requests, Transit Recaps, and questions of allowable costs. Was a permanent lab on the Illinois River on or off-campus? Who needs to approve the purchase of a new truck? Can you charge bug spray to a state grant?

When I moved to the School of Social Work in 2017, I found most grant support came from Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Illinois Department of Human Services. I have learned that PRI did not corner-the-market on unique challenges. Again, Kevin was there to patiently work through issues, like new subawardees, the annual reworking of \$20M in grants (1 grant; no, 2 grants; wait, how about 3 grants and a contract...), and constant budget revisions. Does the Governor's Travel Control Board have a say on the travel of our employees? How do we provide timesheets for faculty members? How many times can we alter a Transit Recap before SPA is ready to blackball us?

In 2019, Kevin and I were part of a team that developed the *State of Illinois Lifecycle* elective for SPaRC training. The fact I was even asked to do training related to State grants is in great part due to Kevin, and he was extremely helpful during the development process. In 2020, we updated the presentation and had the added challenge of presenting online; successfully, I believe.

Kevin's patience with questions, and his detailed and polite responses, have taught my staff and me a tremendous amount. We not only know how to address the issues, but we've had a good role model on tactful replies to repetitious questions and outlandish requests. In my book, Kevin Frerichs is certainly deserving of the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. He has always been an excellent resource, finder-of-all-answers, and, as noted repeatedly, very patient. Multiply my experience by all the others on campus managing State grants, and his impact on Sponsored Programs and the campus is clear!

Sincerely,

Wendy G. Harris

Associate Dean for Administration
School of Social Work

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

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July 27, 2021

2021 SPaRC Retreat Committee
1901 S. First Street, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61820

RE: Nomination of Kevin Frerichs – 2021 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award

Dear SPaRC Award Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to nominate Kevin Frerichs for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. I have known Kevin for over 12 years during my tenure with the university. Kevin has been instrumental in helping me and our PI's manage our state grants. He has always made himself available and provided leadership on policies that were unclear to us. His willingness to go the extra mile, including working after hours to help us keep from missing any deadlines, demonstrates his compassion and commitment to his position.

Kevin has been a mentor to me sharing his knowledge on our state grants, which can be somewhat unique in nature. He cares about the quality of his work, he takes the time to explain in detail why he is requesting the information, and he has taught me to always make sure that I have properly documented my work. Too often we see co-workers that simply do the bare minimum just to get their work done, and Kevin is not one of those people. His patience and guidance have made me better in my job and he is fully deserving of this award!

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. White

Kimberly S. White
Director of Grants & Contracts
Illinois Fire Service Institute

To: SPaRC Awards Nomination Committee

From: Kristi Anderson, Senior Financial Operations Manager, Illinois Center for Transportation (ICT)

Date: July 29, 2021

Re: Recommendation of Kevin Frerichs for the Outstanding Service Award

Dear members of the selection committee,

I would like to recommend Kevin Frerichs, assistant director of state awards, for the SPaRC Outstanding Service award. Kevin and I have worked together on the Illinois Center for Transportation and Illinois Department of Transportation Intergovernmental Agreement for the past six and half years. Kevin always demonstrates excellence in his work and has exemplary professionalism.

The ICT/IDOT IGA has over 50 active projects currently that require specific sponsor reporting and invoicing guidelines. The research administration of this agreement involves much communication with our center and the sponsor. Kevin contributes to the success of our program due to his exceptional outstanding support and ability to provide feedback and guidance.

Kevin establishes and maintains exceptional working relationships and is extremely professional and ethical. He is very deserving of recognition. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.