

July 28, 2024

Nomination of Landon Hill for 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award

Dear SPaRC Award Selection Committee,

It is my great honor and pleasure to nominate Landon Hill for the 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award for his contributions to the research community over the past 23 years at the University of Illinois. Landon's contributions may go unnoticed by many due to the nature of his work, but this letter hopefully illustrates his crucial role in supporting research with outstanding service and allowing the University to operate as it does.

Landon is currently the University's Hazardous Waste Compliance Manager within the Division of Research Safety (DRS). He is responsible for the University's compliance with hazardous waste disposal from every corner of the main UIUC campus, field stations, and satellite facilities. The Environmental Protection Agency dictates that the University is responsible for every drop of waste from the first drop that is generated to its final resting place. Landon tirelessly ensures that every waste stream leaving the university is disposed of properly, an enormous responsibility.

Roughly 1,400 drums of hazardous waste are shipped from our campus annually. Over 90% is generated in research activities. Landon ensures that each container of chemical waste a research protocol generates is correctly identified through a determination of hazardous properties, so it is responsibly disposed of. Landon's service to research at Illinois is mostly performed behind the scenes. When you think of research, it isn't often that you think of the end of the process. Landon works directly with researchers to identify and handle non-routine waste requests that arise due to the complexity of research projects at Illinois.

Landon's dedication to the University of Illinois is evident in his tenure at the Division of Research Safety. In 2001 he joined what was then called the Division of Environmental Health and Safety (DEHS) as a Chemical Safety Specialist. Where he worked with researchers to provide chemical safety support. Shortly thereafter, DEHS became Division of Research Safety and Division of Safety and Compliance. Landon then transitioned to entirely supporting the university's EPA RCRA permit for hazardous chemical waste within DRS. In his current role as manager, he works with hazardous waste vendors, researchers, departments, and federal agencies to allow waste to be removed from facilities around campus so operations may continue.

DRS is inspected annually by the U.S. EPA. This inspection of the University's waste permit has a lot riding on its success. Landon's preparation and attention to the compliance of our waste programs allows us to continue to operate at the current capacity. A pause in Landon's work or our ability to process waste would be felt in labs, shops, farms, and beyond. His critical role at the University and dedication to supporting research makes him an excellent candidate for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Thank you for considering my recommendation and allowing me to nominate Landon for this award.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephanie Tumidajski Hess'.

Stephanie Tumidajski Hess, Ph.D.

Director

Division of Research Safety

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation