

To: SPaRC Awards Committee

From: Zahra Mohaghegh, Associate Professor, Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

Date: July 30, 2021

Re: Outstanding Service Award Nomination for **Ms. Melissa (Missy) Lynn Beck-LeFavre**

It is with pleasure that I write this nomination letter for Ms. Melissa (Missy) Lynn Beck-LeFavre for the Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance (SPaRC) Outstanding Service Award. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering (NPRe) in the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) while holding an affiliate to the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the School of Information Sciences, and the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at UIUC. I established the Socio-Technical Risk Analysis (SoTeRiA) Research Laboratory (<http://soteria.npre.illinois.edu/>) at NPRe to advance risk science and applications. The SoTeRiA Laboratory has been making scholarly contributions to risk analysis and bridging foundational risk analysis research with nuclear industry and regulatory needs, benefitting from grants awarded by the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the nuclear industry, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It is my honor to nominate Melissa (Missy) Lynn Beck-LeFavre. I have known Missy since she joined UIUC in May 2013 as an award negotiator. She has provided outstanding support to all faculty members in our NPRe department across diverse aspects, from proposal developments and the required pre-award negotiations to communications between research teams and Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) for the submission of project deliverables. Missy plays an important role for all those in our department, ensuring their successful proposal developments and empowering them to apply to different funding sources which further support the educational development of our graduate and undergraduate students. She has the capability to run multiple proposal submissions from our department in parallel, while maintaining her quality and credibility and equally distributing her know-how among diverse research teams. Missy can always be relied on to provide reliable and accurate information during the most critical times of proposal submissions. She truly is an invaluable asset to our department.

She has been extremely helpful with the SoTeRiA research laboratory proposals and projects, both national and international. While the technical aspects of proposals are critical for proposals, the development of many additional required documents that ensure compliance with all requirements is equally critical. Missy has consistently gone above and beyond in her efforts to help us navigate the complexities of ensuring compliance in our proposals, comprehensively reviewing proposal guidelines, and communicating directly with sponsors. My laboratory's research projects and proposals with industry require extensive communications regarding grant negotiation and budget

management. Missy's excellent communication skills have been essential for sustaining our positive interactions with industry partners and collaborators.

In summary, her extensive knowledge regarding applicable regulations and guidelines from diverse sponsors, in addition to her expertise in federal regulations, are invaluable resources for our NPRE department, resources that are critical in maintaining the department portfolio. Missy's reliability and outstanding support, along with her flexibility in aiding our department's proposal submissions while conducting her responsibilities as a mother to her three children, merits recognition. Missy truly deserves the Outstanding Service Award, and I wholeheartedly support her nomination!

Sincerely,

Zahra Mohaghegh

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Zahra Mohaghegh

Associate Professor

Socio-Technical Risk Analysis (SoTeRiA) Research Laboratory

soteria.npre.illinois.edu

Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

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July 30, 2021

Dear SPaRC Committee Members:

I'm pleased to nominate, with my greatest enthusiasm, Melissa (Missy) Beck-LeFaivre, the Assistant Director of Grants and Contracting at the Engineering Business Service Center (EBSC) of the Grainger College of Engineering, for the Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance (SPaRC) Outstanding Service Award.

I had the pleasure to work with Missy closely since 2019. She has been of tremendous help to the work of my research group. Proposal preparation, submission, and award management is notoriously tedious. Missy made our lives much easier, so that we focus on the science! Her assistance ranges from pre- and post-award management, proposal submission, budget, all kinds of purchases and procurement, reimbursement, appointment, etc. Oftentimes, we don't know who is the right person or office to contact. She is my goto-person for all business questions! Even if the question does not fall into her responsibilities, she is always willing to take extra steps to help us out. Furthermore, one thing I particularly appreciate is her nanosecond response time, even after working hours! If we had achieved anything in the past few years, Missy and the office she led deserve a huge chunk of the credit.

In summary, Missy is an incredible asset to anyone of us who were lucky to have a chance to work with her. Being able to work with a staff like her is one of the best things here at Illinois. Therefore, I'm writing this letter sincerely to ask the SPaRC Committee to consider acknowledging her terrific work with the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely yours,

Y Z

Associate Head for Graduate Programs

Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

Associate Professor and Donald Biggar Willett Faculty Scholar

Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Program of Computational Science and Engineering

Center for Biophysics and Quantitative Biology

Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

July 30, 2021

To the SPaRC Awards Committee:


I write this letter in wholehearted support of Missy Beck-LeFaivre's consideration for the Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance Outstanding Service Award. Missy is the Assistant Director of Grants and Contracting at the Grainger College of Engineering. I joined the Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in the Fall 2018 as an Assistant Professor, and shortly after, I started interacting with Missy in the process of proposal submission and award management.

Missy assisted me in the development, editing, and submission of several grant applications and proposals and provided knowledgeable guidance regarding grant processes in general. Missy is very professional and extremely effective in reviewing the drafts of the proposals and budget documents for accuracy, completeness, and clarity, and confirmation that all the funding agency requirements have been met. At a personal level, it is a pleasure to work with Missy, as she not only supports the critical process of proposal development with competence, but her positive attitude towards her work is a source of inspiration for me throughout the grant preparation and submission process.

My research revolves around several areas of radiation measurements and often involves collaborative research. This implies submitting applications to multiple agencies, often in collaboration with a diverse set of partners and colleagues. Missy has always supported new initiatives and partnerships that are well in line with the college's mission and goals.

Her dedication to her work and excellent contribution to proposals development and grant management make her an excellent candidate for the Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance Outstanding Service Award. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Angela Di Fulvio 

Angela Di Fulvio, Ph. D.
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To: SPaRC Awards Committee

From: Tessa M. Hile, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration, Grainger College of Engineering

Date: July 29, 2021

Re: Service Award Nomination for Missy Beck-LeFavre

I write to you in full support of the nomination of Missy Beck-LeFavre for the 2021 SPaRC service award. On paper, Missy's extensive experience in sponsored programs administration checks all the boxes. She has nearly five years of experience actively reviewing and negotiating complex awards and contracts on behalf of the University. In her current role (with three years of experience), she is responsible for managing and supporting research program activities for nine departments within the Grainger College of Engineering and leading the grants team in the Engineering Business Shared Services Center. In addition to providing direct support to her departments and team, she is also responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing systems, processes and practices that support compliance with federal, state and university regulatory policies and procedures.

I have had the privilege of supervising and guiding Missy for the last three years. Whether working on a grant submission deadline or researching an intricate funding issue, Missy works tirelessly to help achieve the best possible outcome for faculty. And, while her vast array of professional experience has served her well, the greatest asset that she possesses (that has helped her be most successful, in my opinion) is her ability to establish rapport with her colleagues and the department heads that she serves. The principal skill that we will never be able to automate or outsource is this ability to work with others. The art of influence, of building consensus and compromising while creating an atmosphere of harmony and mutual respect is all too rare. Missy has this ability in spades.

In addition to her day to day duties, Missy has also been actively involved in SPaRC trainings (including instructing and leading sessions), has continued to foster strong working relationships with colleagues at SPA, assisted with grant reporting and advising at the college level, and is a member of the Grainger College of Engineering's Business Manager group. She is the epitome of service (on a professional and personal level), and I enthusiastically support her candidacy. Please let me know if any clarification is needed.



7/30/2021

Dear SPaRC Committee members,

I am honored to provide this nomination of Missy Beck-LeFavre for the 2021 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Missy in her various roles at UIUC for the past 8 years. I highly respect Missy's knowledgeable, honest, collaborative, and professional approach to her work.

In my role of Assistant Director of Audit & Compliance in Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA), Missy and I have worked together on challenging award terms and conditions as well as challenging subaward entities. Missy has a 'big-picture' view of awards/subawards and research administration. This is a great benefit to the University because Missy understands how various award terms or challenges can ultimately affect many different areas of SPA or the University and she works to ensure that she supports all areas of the University's research and research administration communities. Missy does not shy away from a challenging situation and approaches such situations in a professional manner with clear communication.

Because of her broad knowledge base, team approach, and respect for research administration as a whole, Missy is often recommended and recruited as a SPaRC'ed instructor and SPaRC quarterly/retreat presenter. Her personable nature and vast experiences in research administration are well received and respected across campus.

I truly enjoy working with Missy and admire her take-charge, straight-forward, (often humorous) collaborative nature. Missy is a valuable part of the University of Illinois and I highly support her nomination for the 2021 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,

Kristie Lamoreux
Assistant Director, Audit & Compliance
Sponsored Programs Administration