

July 29, 2024

Nomination of Shad Barker for 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award

Dear SPaRC Awards Selection Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Shad Barker for the 2024 SPaRC Outstanding Service Award for his tireless efforts serving the research community over the past 34 years. When you think of the Division of Research Safety (DRS), Shad is likely one of the first people who comes to mind. He has developed positive relationships across campus due to his amazing personality, work ethic, and exceptional service.

Shad is currently the Regulated Waste Operations Manager at the Division of Research Safety, but his service to the University began in 1990 when he joined the Division of Environmental Health and Safety as a student worker. In 1992 Shad was hired full time as an Environmental Health and Safety Technician and has risen through the ranks at the Division of Research Safety because of his dedication to doing everything in his power to support the customer, which is the entire campus community. Later, he transitioned to managing hazardous waste operations that support labs and facilities across campus.

The university generates around 1,400 drums of chemical waste each year, which must be transported by Shad and his 4 technician team from each location, to the campus waste facility. Each container is transported, segregated, and processed (e.g. bulked) for shipment off site. Shad also coordinates all pickups of PIMW, better known as Sharps waste, to be disposed of by incineration. Over 90% of the regulated waste that Shad and his team handles originates from research at the university. Shad runs the operations side of hazardous waste like a well-oiled machine, allowing pickups from labs in a few days after requested by the researcher.

Shad is not only dedicated to his job, but his undeniable love for this university and its mission is one of the greatest I have witnessed. Shad will drop everything he is doing to help a researcher, coworker, or any other person in need. For example, Building Service Workers finding Sharps in trashcans, Shad is there immediately to safely remove them. University personnel discovering chemical containers in dumpsters, Shad will drop what he is doing to remedy the situation and protect the University from unnecessary risk and liability. A researcher needing last-minute accommodations to have a pickup, Shad will work it into his schedule.

No task is too difficult, and when change is necessary, he embraces it because he knows he is making a difference to support the University. You will see Shad in each University building with a smile on his face and there to complete the job in a manner that allows research to continue. Shad understands his role to support research and the entire university. Although just one person at this complex university, he makes an enormous difference in the daily operations at DRS and allowing research activities to continue.

I would like to thank the SPaRC awards selection committee for allowing me to nominate Shad for this award and tell of his outstanding service to the research community and the entire University. He truly

has given the time and the energy to provide impeccable service, going above and beyond, to support the university's mission.



Stephanie Tumidajski Hess, Ph.D.

Director

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