



Illinois Global Institute

Center for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies
221 International Studies Building, MC-489
910 S. Fifth St.
Champaign, IL 61820-6216 USA

April 25, 2022

Kamil Tamimie
Assistant Director
Training, Outreach, and Data Management
Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance
1901 South First Street
Suite A
MC-685
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Kamil,

I am pleased to nominate Sowmya Anand, Assistant Director of the Office of Proposal Development, for this year's SPARC award, in the category of Service. Since last year until February 2022, the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, along with other IGI area studies and thematic centers, were busy preparing to apply for a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant. This proposal requires various data that we use to demonstrate university strength in our areas of study. Sowmya was attentive in gathering our data needs and liaising with ATLAS colleagues. She helped me personally at CSAMES by finding a colleague who could develop simple tables for our data – a service that saved me hours of time in having to learn the table formatting. Due to this, I could focus more on preparing the rest of the grant narrative. She was responsive to my emails and queries at a time when we needed it most, and always with a pleasant demeanor. It is these actions and kinds of responses that allow us all to work at our best. I was grateful to have her as part of the team during the grant-writing endeavor and enthusiastically support her receiving this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela S. Williams'.

Angela S. Williams, PhD



Illinois Global Institute

Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies
230 International Studies Building, MC-483
910 S. Fifth St.
Champaign, IL 61820-6216

May 11, 2022

Kamil Tamimie
Assistant Director, Training, Outreach, and Data Management
Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance
1901 South First Street
Suite A, MC-685
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Kamil,

On behalf the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS), we are writing to express our full support and enthusiasm for Sowmya Anand's nomination for this year's SPaRC Outstanding Service Award.

Sowmya has been an invaluable resource to our center's research administration for over five years. We began working with her in 2018 for our U.S. Department of Education (DOED) Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies grant competition. Sowmya provided exceptional support to help us collect East Asian studies related research, teaching, and engagement data needed for our proposal. CEAPS was awarded over 1.7 million in grant funding from the DOED and continued to rely on her expertise to compile data for our annual grant reporting. Her assistance was especially critical to the successful submission of our most recent DOED Title VI proposals in February 2022. Building on her experience from the previous proposal, she created a system to compile and share comprehensive data sets applicable to and customizable for all eight centers applying for the 2018-2022 cycle funding. She worked tirelessly to engage with and communicate progress from ATLAS, IIP, and other campus data teams throughout the proposal development window. Despite the deadline pressure during winter break, she responded to inquiries promptly and took time to plow through raw data from various sources to deliver custom data needed for our center's proposal. Her consistently positive and helpful attitude and calmness to our frequent request for her help are absolutely appreciated. While we are still awaiting the outcome of our Title VI grant proposal, we feel confident that we have submitted a strong, compelling proposal with impactful data thanks to Sowmya's excellent work.

Once again, we strongly believe that Sowmya Anand has demonstrated outstanding service in support of research administration at Illinois and wish to express our fullest endorsement for her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Misumi Sadler'.

Misumi Sadler
Director, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yuchia Chang'.

Yuchia Chang
Associate Director, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies



Illinois Global Institute

Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program
111 Coble Hall, MC-401
801 S. Wright St.
Champaign, IL 61820 USA

May 24, 2022

Kamil Tamimie
Assistant Director,
Training, Outreach, and Data Management
Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance
1901 South First Street, Suite A
MC-685
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Kamil,

On behalf of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGPP), we would like to share our support of the nomination of Sowmya Anand for this year's SPaRC award in the category of Service. Our program along with seven other units under the Illinois Global Institute recently applied for the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE) Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language Area Study grant. While other centers have worked with Sowmya in the past on similar applications, this was the first time WGPP has applied for such a grant. Sowmya was instrumental in working with various units across campus to create new data reports specifically for our program while assisting the other seven centers applying with their own unique data needs.

Sowmya worked to gather all of the data needs for the eight center applications given a short time frame that came during a time where many offices were either closed or reduced staff due to holiday schedules. The call opened on 12/16/2021 and closed on 2/14/2022. Sowmya worked diligently to collect data ranging from area studies courses, language courses, and faculty biosketches in addition to coordinating letters of support from various leadership offices. WGPP's data appendices were almost 200 pages of various report figures that Sowmya was instrumental in creating and disseminating this information.

These requests combined with the other responsibilities that Sowmya had at the time was quite daunting yet she continuously provided feedback and was available to help with any last minute requests. WGPP is pleased to support her for this award for her exemplary support of research administration at Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Faranak Miraftab'.

Faranak Miraftab
Acting Director
Women and Gender in Global Perspectives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Kaiser'.

Anita Kaiser
Associate Director
Women and Gender in Global Perspectives



European Union Center
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

May 24, 2022

To whom it may concern:

The European Union Center would like to add its support to the nomination of Sowmya Anand for this year's SPaRC award, in the category of Service.

What my colleagues from the Center for Global Studies have written to open this nomination resonates with our center's experience of working with Sowmya during the process of applying for our U.S. DoEd Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language Area Study grants. The amount of data needed, given the goals of the grant to advance comprehensive internationalization at Illinois, was immense in comparison with other grants for which we have applied.

Although direct contact with Sowmya was limited in order to support streamlined communication through my colleagues Donna Tonini and Kasia Szremksi, I can attest to the confidence that I felt in the work she was doing on behalf of our eight centers. Her effort, skill, and professionalism truly deserve recognition.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Larson, Ph.D.
Associate Director, European Union Center
Research Associate Affiliate, Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

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May 24, 2022

Kamil Tamimie
Assistant Director, Training, Outreach, and Data Management
Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance
1901 South First Street
Suite A, MC-685
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Kamil,

It gives us great pleasure to nominate Sowmya Anand, Assistant Director of the Office of Proposal Development, for this year's SPaRC award, in the category of Service. Sowmya has demonstrated outstanding service in support of research administration at Illinois to our unit, the Center for Global Studies (CGS) and multiple partner units under the Illinois Global Institute, over the past five years. Sowmya has assisted us with our U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOEd) Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language Area Study grant over the past two 4-year cycles, starting with the U.S. DOEd's 2018 Notice of Invitation to Apply (NIA) for Title VI, and most recently with the 2022 NIA, which opened on 12/16/2021 and closed on 2/14/2022. This grant requires a vast amount of data that not only highlight Illinois' strength in Foreign Language and Area Studies, but also Illinois' preeminence as an international institution of world-renown. As an example, our approximately 400-page application included appendices that feature over 3,475 Area Studies courses, 470 Language courses, and nearly 320 faculty biosketches. Sowmya also used creative approaches to add value to the data, such as innovating a way to merge the data on "Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students" into the related Biosketches we feature in our application. Sowmya also proposed a system that would make it easier and more efficient for future grant teams to access and represent the information required for the biosketches. There are scores of other spreadsheets that Sowmya helped to pull together from departments all over campus that helped us highlight Illinois strengths in Study Abroad, International Partnerships, Departmental Rankings, Excellence in Accessibility, and other accolades heralded by campus. In addition to collecting, organizing, and tracking the data, Sowmya developed new procedures for making the data more easily accessible for the future grant cycles. Sowmya partnered well with us on these tasks because she was not only doing this for our unit – there were EIGHT units applying for Title VI in this round, and she was assisting all of us.

We highlight this number because the eight applications represent eight Centers with different needs and different data requests. Sowmya was the point person for all eight Centers, and regardless of what request was made, she always considered it carefully and made her best effort to pull the data or to connect with the department that could provide the data. Sowmya's attitude was always positive and open to the possibilities of what she could do to make the data happen. She was always calm, collected, and reasoned, even when our grant teams themselves were feeling pressured with deadlines. Her can-do attitude always eased the situation, and always helped us make progress.

Furthermore, she was a great resource and mentor for our students. At CGS, our students were part of our grant-writing teams, and as she worked with our student teams in building the biosketches, this was an invaluable experience for them. She met with the students as professionals and provided them with clear instructions on how to assist and create the biosketch documents. Her coaching and mentoring provided them an excellent opportunity to experience other facets of proposal development, as she allowed them to contribute their ideas in meaningful ways. Her involvement contributed to their professional development and provided additional training in grant writing.

In 2018, Sowmya's assistance helped CGS to be awarded over \$2.2million in grant funding from the U.S. DOE. We are still awaiting word from the U.S. DOE regarding award status, but we are confident that with Sowmya's help these past months, many of the Illinois Global Institute's Centers will also be successful this round as well. CGS feels that Sowmya Anand has demonstrated outstanding service in support of research administration at Illinois, and we wish to nominate her based on her overall contributions in supporting research administration at Illinois.

Sincerely,

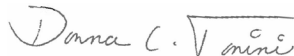


Steve Witt
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Center for Global Studies, Director
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Donna C. Tonini, MBA, Ed. D

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