

July 7th, 2022

To the Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that we wholeheartedly support Tina Owens-Anderson's nomination for the *SPARC Outstanding Service Award*.

Tina has been the Humanities Research Institute's (HRI) primary SPA liaison for over five years. As a Humanities unit at a very STEM-focused University, HRI faces a somewhat unique set of grant management challenges. In every circumstance, we have found Tina to be the consummate professional, willing to work through complicated issues with rigor and aplomb. She is completely reliable, responsible, and simply a fount of knowledge regarding all things related to sponsored programs. Tina takes every question seriously, no matter how small it might be, and her responses are always informative and timely. She knows how to navigate the complex waters of our multi-institutional grant, [Humanities Without Walls](#): she is committed to serving the greater good but she always keeps the priorities and parameter of UIUC in mind. We are routinely grateful for her generosity of spirit as well as her impressive knowledge and unerring integrity.

We find it particularly amazing that we are but one small piece of Tina's portfolio. In addition to everything she does for HRI, we know that Tina delivers the same exceptional service to a wide range of units across campus because her reputation precedes her. As such, she has made a truly significant contribution to the University. Without Tina's contributions, the research enterprise at the University would be sorely diminished.

On top of being a talented professional, Tina is collegial, friendly, and kind, she is truly a pleasure to work with.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Burton, Director, Humanities Research Institute



Jenna Ziemann, Budget and Finance Manager, Humanities Research Institute



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

2090 Lincoln Hall, MC-448
702 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write today to endorse Tina Owens-Anderson's nomination for this year's SPaRC Outstanding Service award. I believe that Tina is the best choice for the award because of her dedication and loyalty to SPA and its constituents. I have worked with Tina for over seven years, and I strongly believe she is deserving of this award.

Working with private and/or foreign grants can be difficult. When paired with rapid staff turnover it can be even more challenging. But Tina brings her knowledge, experience, and patience to each issue and the obscure immediately starts to seem manageable. Tina takes it upon herself to discern needs and issues and then quickly provides key information and direction.

IGI's foreign awards can be complicated and are not managed with any uniform guidance. Tina approaches each grant aware that previous experience might be helpful, but also digs in to make sure that all are aware of any new and different requirements. Many grants require internal and sometimes even external audits to close. Tina starts early to ensure that all data and backup needed is ordered and arranged so that the PI, SPA audit, and myself know our roles and responsibilities and can complete the audit as painlessly as possible.

Tina answers every question and handles every request promptly. She never gets frustrated, even in the most frustrating of circumstances. When PIs and other senior personnel on a grant don't understand a process, she takes hours out of her busy workday to meet and explain processes. And due to staff turnover, her patience has been tested because explaining to new staff has become far too common.

Tina has positively impacted many private awards in the Illinois Global Institute. Her knowledge and willingness to help make her invaluable and her friendliness and good humor inspire others during challenging situations. As someone who has benefitted from her knowledge and good humor, I strongly endorse Tina's nomination for this year's SPaRC Outstanding Service award.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katrina Chester'.

Katrina Chester
Assistant Director
Illinois Global Institute

From: [Hoey, Patrick H III](#)
To: [Morgan, Alison Gene](#)
Subject: Note of Appreciation for SPA Staff Member
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 12:05:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

Hi Alison,

I don't know if she is your direct report, but I wanted to notify somebody in SPA how grateful I am for assistance that Tina Owens-Anderson has provided me regarding a MacArthur Foundation award received by a faculty member affiliated with Carle Illinois. I don't have a sponsored research background and am not knowledgeable about award management. I've had a half dozen or so conversations with Tina regarding this award. She has been generous with her time and answered my questions thoroughly, often providing useful information that I did not even know to ask for. She is not difficult to contact, is patient with my questions and communicates very clearly. She does all this with a pleasant manner and demeanor. I am very thankful for her time and assistance.

Please pass this along to anybody else who should receive this.

Thank you!

PATRICK HOEY

Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

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SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

1901 S. First St., Suite A, MC-685
Champaign, IL 61820-7406

July 26, 2022

RE: SPaRC Outstanding Service Award Nomination for Tina Owens-Anderson

Dear 2022 SPaRC Retreat Committee:

I nominate Tina Owens-Anderson, Advanced Senior Award Management Coordinator with Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) for the SPaRC Outstanding Service Award. Tina has served in the field of research administration for over 8 years and continually demonstrates outstanding service in support of the Illinois research community.

As Tina's supervisor, I have been able to observe first-hand the level of dedication she has to her work in sponsored research. Tina provides a level of service that is second to none. Her inquisitive and meticulous approach translates into a level of comfort for those she interacts with, knowing that if Tina is involved, it will be made a priority and completed accurately. Externally, Tina serves as a subject matter expert to the campus research community. Internally to SPA, she also serves the research community by always being willing to assist with onboarding new employees, the SPaRC'Ed program, and serves on various committees and working groups to further enhance SPA's service levels.

While I could fill pages and pages with accolades and highlights from Tina's career thus far, I want to take this opportunity to highlight a few examples of Tina's excellent work. Tina is SPA's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation expert due to her exceptional long-term administration of the Humanities Without Walls program led by Dr. Antoinette Burton since 2014. Tina makes it look easy to balance service with compliance, with her thoughtfulness and enthusiasm always showing through in her interactions with colleagues. Tina is continually recognized by research business offices for her top-notch assistance. Her skillful collaborations with sponsors, departments, and faculty have also resulted in recognition for her work with the European Union Center and Foundation Relations, assisting to meet the unique demands of their portfolios.

Tina is highly dedicated to her job and continuing education. She is always willing to put in extra time and assume extra responsibilities to make sure priorities are met. To keep up with the ever-changing guidelines in research administration, Tina participates yearly in continuing education opportunities through SPaRC'Ed and NCURA conferences and webinars. Tina does all this with that infectious smile and laugh that we all love to see and hear.

In addition, Tina makes a substantial contribution to research by her active role in the SPaRC'Ed program. Tina is not only a graduate of the program, but she has also co-instructed and led the development of materials for the past 5 years for elective courses *Banner Training for Sponsored Projects* and the *Private Award Lifecycle*. Just this past spring she also served on the SPaRC'Ed committee.

I would appreciate your consideration of Tina for this significant honor. I can't think of anyone else more deserving of this award for the 2022 year. Tina's exemplary representation of service as a University of Illinois Research Administrator is evident in every interaction and with each responsibility she is charged with. I fully support and recommend Tina for this award.

Sincerely,



Michelle L. Ward
Assistant Director, Non-Federal Awards
Sponsored Programs Administration

