

31 July 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support for the nomination of Linda Williams for the SPaRC Career Achievement Award. I worked with Linda during the entire time I served as Vice Chancellor for Research at Illinois, and I was consistently impressed with her level of expertise and her capacity for supporting the research enterprise.

Linda's career demonstrates a long track record of sponsored research support, first at Illinois State, and then at Illinois. When I arrived at Illinois in 2012, Linda was serving in the interim director role at OSP, first sharing the duties with another senior staff member and then taking on the entire role when the other staff member decided to retire. After Dave Richardson was hired as associate vice chancellor, she continued through a succession of leadership roles in pre-award operations – always playing an essential part in ensuring that the researchers on campus were well-served.

While Linda had a critical oversight role for operations, she was particularly strong as an individual contributor in many of the toughest situations. She would be brought into the discussions for difficult and complex negotiations with industry partners – for example, with BP in their work with the materials faculty on campus or broad ranging MOU's with companies like IBM. She was particularly instrumental in working with UI Labs in the development of the DMDII partnership – an extraordinarily complex and sensitive relationship that included multiple other universities and industrial partners, as well as important governmental relationships. Linda acted as a leader among academic institutions in the development of that arrangement, which allowed the universities to participate in an important economic development initiative for the state of Illinois. These are just a few examples of the many specific negotiations in which her contribution has been essential.

In all of her work, Linda is a consummate professional, providing expert and timely advice and support to everyone involved with sponsored research at Illinois. Given her track record and many years of excellent service, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,



Peter Schiffer
Vice Provost for Research
Professor of Applied Physics and Physics

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

Office of University Counsel
258 Henry Administration Building, MC-340
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

July 11, 2018

Selection Committee
Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance Awards
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to nominate Linda Williams for the SPaRC Career Achievement Award. She is a research administration professional who for more than two decades has made positive contributions to her field. For more than 10 of those years she has been the face of sponsored research administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

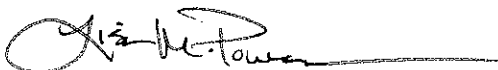
I have worked with Linda for more than a decade and know her work well. I joined the University in April 2006 as Assistant Director – Award Division in the then Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration and became Linda's immediate supervisor. At that time she was a contract coordinator in the office, having left her job as Associate Director of the sponsored programs office at Illinois State University less than a year earlier to join the larger office at the University of Illinois. Linda was, in fact, far more knowledgeable than I was in the field of research administration, yet she never hesitated to help me and provide me guidance as I grew in my job.

Linda was promoted to Assistant Director shortly after I moved from sponsored programs to the Office of University Counsel, and I continued to work closely with her in my role as the attorney assigned to her office. I have watched Linda's progressive promotions in recognition of her superior knowledge and leadership. She has consistently represented the University of Illinois in national venues, such as the University Industry Demonstration Partnership, the Council on Governmental Relations, and the National Council of University Research Administrators. Her voice is respected among her peers, and she has presented and has served on many panels.

I know from personal experience that Linda is a highly skilled contract drafter and negotiator. She is comfortable and confident when sitting across the table from lawyers from top national and international law firms as she represents the University in securing research funding for our faculty from federal, state and corporate sources. Linda has successfully negotiated complex research agreements with the likes of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rolls Royce, Mayo Clinic, Abbott Laboratories, ADM, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and BP. The list goes on and on. Perhaps more importantly, Linda has been a dedicated mentor to her staff and, through development of training programs, has built a team of proficient, professional pre-award coordinators who can carry out the daily operations of the office as she has assumed a more strategic management role.

I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of career recognition at the University than Linda. She does her job without fanfare and often without thanks or acknowledgement of the diligence, dedication, and skill that she has consistently displayed over many years to help the University land hundreds of millions of research dollars.

Very truly yours,



Lisa M. Power
Assistant Campus Legal Counsel

Date July 30, 2018

SPaRC Committee
University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign
1901 South First Street
Suite A
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear SPaRC Committee Members,

It is with pleasure that I submit a letter of support for the nomination of Linda Williams for the SPaRC Career Achievement award. I can think of no better person to receive this award.



While I was Director of the Office of Technology Management (2006- 2016), it really was my absolute pleasure to work with Linda. During my time in that role, Linda brought to bear her significant skills, knowledge and experience to numerous engagements and initiatives. Between 2005 - 2016, she capably and smoothly moved from a Coordinator to Senior Associate Director at OSPRA (now SPA), demonstrating in each and every interaction her ability to manage large volume, complex (as well as mind numbing!) interactions on every conceivable type of engagement.

Linda was often the key team member, leading the contract negotiations, working with Office of General Counsel, the Office of Technology Management and department or center heads, or faculty and administration. She helped in difficult discussions about the risks and benefits of different approaches and was always supportive of her colleagues throughout the process. Linda always came to the table with a wry smile and a great sense of humor (often what kept us all sane), and was always a consummate professional. In addition to her negotiation, contract drafting and general research administration experience she was also a great leader of people, capably managing large teams in high stress and high volume situations.

Linda has without doubt made significant contributions to the field of research administration, not just at Illinois but in her role at UIDP and NCURA where she has taken on leadership positions that have added significant value to research administrators across the US. Additionally, through her skills, experience and insight she directly and personally assisted me in understanding the nuances and complexities of research administration and contract negotiation. I have no doubt that support helped me achieve my current position at MIT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lesley Millar-Nicholson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lesley Millar-Nicholson
Director, MIT Technology Licensing Office