

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Rachel Bruflo dt

00970864

Student ID#
(Do not use SSN)
442 W Benton St

Local Address:
Iowa City, IA 52246-5508

1910 Rosemont St

Permanent Address:
Dubuque, IA 52002

608-732-8922

Phone:
rachel-bruflo dt@uiowa.edu

Email:

Nominator's Name: Ananya Sen Gupta

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Nominating Department: _____
319-335-5947

Nominator's Phone:
ananya-sengupta@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Email: _____

This sheet will be retained by the institution. If the nominee is selected for regional consideration, this form will not be included with the material forwarded for review for the **Region's** Student Employee of the Year.

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Rachel Bruflo

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Undergraduate research assistant: Rachel has been my URA, supported by a CHEEC grant to work on environmental informatics and signal processing. This will also contribute to her honors project.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Rachel has been an extremely reliable research assistant. She has never missed a deadline, often delivered research results well ahead of time, and is professional beyond her years. She has recently produced research results in oil spill fingerprinting that can potentially have a national impact. It is rare for an undergraduate to not only understand what is expected of her, but to beat expectations, catch errors in the code, and holes in the method, correct them herself, and turn around meaningful results, sometimes in a matter of hours. I have cross-checked her results myself, like I do for all my other students, and have never found one error in her work. This is truly amazing, and I have so far mentored two MS, one PhD, and several undergraduate research assistants, and Rachel is by far the best RA I have had. My senior coloborator in Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a world-reknonwed chemist, agrees deeply with my assessment.

Quality of Work:

Rachel has contributed significantly to three different research questions in environmental signal processing and related informatics. She has contributed to the theoretical assessment of sampling efficiency in a multi-agent contaminant model, a hard and open challenge to field scientists studying water sustainability. She has also done significant signal processing and visualization of raw laboratory signals, a significant step forward in automated chemometric analysis. Most recently, and by far the highest impact of her research, has been in oil spill fingerprinting. Based on oil spill samples in the California region, Rachel has helped fingerprint the Refugio oil spill, and quantitatively shown how the different petroleum biomarkers can be used to fingerprint the environmental impact of major oil spills. We are still formalizing this research, but once published, we expect this to make national impact. This research has been done in collaboration with renowned oil spill experts in Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and University of California, Santa Barbara.

Initiative:

Rachel is extremely passionate, disciplined, detail-oriented and always take the initiative to explore new frontiers. I have found her energy and talent exhilarating, and have been delighted to see her blossom from a quiet student in my signals and systems class to a serious scientist in training. She has herself taken the initiative to clean up code, and mathematical glitches in pre-existing techniques, suggest improvements and changes of her own, and then implement them, without needing much handholding. She also asks deep questions related to research, and then under my mentorship, helps articulate the solutions in her own way. Personally, I wish she could get a PhD thesis out of the amazing research she has already done, and am encouraging her to stay on as a graduate student in my research group.

Professionalism:

Rachel is professional beyond her years. She documents her research in beautifully organized slide decks, emails myself and collaborators her recent results with annotations ahead of schedule, asks any pertinent questions in the most polite and professional way, and also makes every effort to answer any questions related to her research results in detail. For example, when my collaborator asked her to run some additional analysis on his data, she took it to heart, set working, and turned it around in a couple of hours. We are amazed at her drive, sincerity, eye for detail, and ability to diagnose and correct problems and communicate at a maturity far beyond we expect from an undergraduate researcher.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

Rachel's contribution to research is truly unique. As I mentioned before, she has significantly contributed to the field of environmental signal processing and informatics at three different levels: theoretical simulations, signal visualization and pattern recognition. Each of these contributions have also been realized over three different applications, water-borne fecal pathogens simulations (collaboration with Kelly baker, College of Public Health), monitoring PCBs in urban air (collaboration with Keri Hornbuckle, College of Engineering) and oil spill forensics (collaboration with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and University of California, Santa Barbara). Of these different collaborations, her contributions, have been all unique and she is the lead author of three independent journal papers on these topics. Given that she has been working with me since summer 2016, i.e., less than a year, I am highly impressed at her talent, ambition, dedication and efficiency. In particular, her work on the Refugio oil spill, once published has the potential for national impact, given the research results she has achieved.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Ananya Sen Gupta

Department: Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Date: February 17, 2017

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Lauren Himan

Student ID# 01189333
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 522 S Clinton St Apt 301
Iowa City, IA 52240

Permanent Address: PO Box 64
Roland, IA 50236-0064

Phone: 515-460-4678

Email: lauren-himan@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Allison Rockwell

Nominating Department: Division of Interdisciplinary Programs

Nominator's Phone: 319-384-3621

Nominator's Email: allison-rockwell@uiowa.edu

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name:

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support** (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services** (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering** (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Student Graphic Designer - Lauren meets all the design needs for the several programs in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs, including course and event promotion posters, program brochures, vision statements, annual reports, and more.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Lauren is one of the most reliable students I have ever employed. She gets right to work when she arrives, meets deadlines, asks questions when she needs more info, and can simply be relied upon to do high quality work without a lot of oversight. As a busy person, she is extremely organized, and thinks ahead about scheduling conflicts, etc. Thus, she has never sprung a last-minute time off request on me, and always calls or texts if she is ill or will be late for any reason (rare).

In addition, I greatly appreciate Lauren's willingness to go above and beyond on a regular basis. For example, though she is not a front desk worker, she cheerfully fills in for other student workers when needed. She has, on short notice, made time to photograph events for us outside her regular work hours, using her own equipment. Rarely have I worked with someone as young as Lauren who demonstrates her level of maturity and professionalism.

Quality of Work:

Lauren is a truly gifted designer. She is able to take the most bare-bones instructions and apply her creative vision to produce a final product - whether poster, brochure, or report - that is visually appealing, clearly conveys information, and would meet the standards of any professional. She always more than meets deadlines, and will make changes (or start over completely) without complaint when needed. She implicitly understands that the client has the final say, and is willing to be flexible with her designs if they aren't working for the intended audience.

One of the first (and biggest) projects Lauren completed for the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs was its 2015-16 annual report. Lauren spent significant time and energy creating a beautiful template, and then many, many additional hours inputting our text/images and edits. She patiently accepted feedback from several people, each with different needs and goals, and was able to incorporate suggestions from a variety of people while maintaining overall consistency in design. The result is a professional-quality report that is visually appealing and beautifully conveys important information about our programs.

Initiative:

Lauren consistently displays a high level of initiative both in the office and in her personal life. As a transfer student in the middle of her first year, Lauren sought out opportunities to get involved with the writing community on campus and became the creative director of INK LIT MAG, a first-year student literary magazine published by the Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing, one of the units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs. She created the most cohesive, error-free, and beautiful magazine we've had since starting INK six years ago. This outcome was a direct result of Lauren's intelligence and work ethic. Lauren then went on to become the youngest lead designer for EARTHWORDS (another publication we produce in our department, whose editorial board is traditionally made up of upperclassmen), and was hired as the first student designer for the Magid Center and the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs.

Lauren consistently impresses me with her ability to balance with aplomb and grace her extracurricular responsibilities (in writing, art, photography, volleyball), her job in DIP, and the demands of a rigorous academic schedule. Many students could not do it.

Professionalism:

As mentioned above, Lauren displays a level of professionalism above and beyond what I expect from most students - and even young college graduates. She is a master of the "soft skills" that many people take years to develop: she is an excellent communicator (whether written or oral), works well individually and on a team, dresses appropriately for the office, is reliable and punctual, is highly organized, and is driven. It is easy to forget that she is still only a sophomore.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

If allowable, please take a look at Lauren's work on our 2015-16 annual report: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/about/news/2015-16-annual-report>. It is stunning - and there are very few students who could have produced such a large project so beautifully on the tight time line we were held to. I would love to attach an entire portfolio of Lauren's work for DIP to this nomination, because I am so impressed with her creativity and initiative. Her course and event promotion posters have now set a high bar for quality, and I know it will be difficult to replace Lauren when she graduates.

Additionally, her work on the Magid Center's stunning Vision Statement has been heralded by the UI Foundation for its ingenuity and beauty; in fact, it was so well received that she has been asked by the Foundation to work on more materials for our donors because they trust and believe in her work.

But it's not just about her creativity - Lauren is such a joy to work with, both because she is so reliable and professional, but also because she is a warm, kind person who is fun to be around. Truly, Lauren is one-of-a-kind, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to work with her.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: _____

Department: _____

Date: _____

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Zach Steil

Student ID# 1197620
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 905 W Benton St Apt 9
Iowa City, IA 52246-5934

Permanent Address: 905 W Benton St Apt 9
Iowa City, IA 52246-5934

Phone: 319-560-6725

Email: zach-steil@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Heather Showalter

Nominating Department: Banquets & Catering

Nominator's Phone: 319-335-1434

Nominator's Email: heather-showalter@uiowa.edu

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Zach Steil

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Zach is a Student Manager for University Catering and has worked in this department for almost 2 ½ years. During his time here Zach has graced the U of I with his amazing ability to supervise events/staff, train new staff, write reports, provide exceptional customer service to clients, and to uphold a positive work environment.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Zach's reliability is top notch. When most people think about reliability, they only think about characteristics like showing up on time and counting on a person to be there when needed. Zach's reliability reaches much farther than that, and we are able to rely on him for far more than just arriving to his shifts on time and not calling in. As a student manager, we rely on Zach to represent UI Catering professionally and respectfully. He runs his own events, so we rely on him to act as a supervisor. We also rely on him to train our new catering staff to also represent UI Catering in the same light. He has not once let us down. Knowing we can rely on Zach to uphold the department values and customer service standards has allowed our department to continue to strive to be better. He is the standard to which we now train all of our student managers. Zach, too, strives to improve our department processes and has taken it upon himself to streamline some of them, including the way we pack for events. Zach's reliability is unmatched, and deserves to be recognized. He is the definition of reliable: consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted.

Quality of Work:

Zach's quality of work is above and beyond. He makes sure his events are very well organized, planned, and executed. He always takes the time to ask the appropriate questions and check over his events, so that even the tiniest of details are not missed. Zach loves getting feedback from clients, supervisors, and employees about his quality of work so he knows where to improve and where to continue achieving. He is able to work independently and takes pride in his work. Zach displays an ability to learn and teach. He is able to quickly adapt to changing situations and uses work as a teachable moment for other employees. He is glad to share his expertise to co-workers in hopes that they may learn something new from him. Zach makes sure that everything is always done. He is more than happy to stay late/come in early in order to ensure that everything is the best it can be. Zach's quality of work is never affected by outside factors. Zach comes to work in with the mindset of success every day. Overall, Zach is a great asset to University Catering. His dedication and commitment to his work is outstanding.

Initiative:

Since he started, Zach has shown a continuous desire to grow. He never rests on his laurels; he has often asked his supervisors what he can do to be a better employee. Not only that, but Zach uses his downtime to benefit the department. On more than one occasion in the past year, supervisors have come to work to find completed event packing lists on their desks. That pleasant surprise takes a burden off their shoulders, as packing lists can take up to 30 minutes to create, allowing them to focus on other tasks with that time. Zach also takes it upon himself to train new employees during his shifts and helps any students who are struggling. Over the last 5 months, Zach has started working to increase the department's efficiency using one of his strengths: Microsoft Excel proficiency. He has created several automated packing lists for events, thereby shrinking the time and effort involved in creating the documents and reducing the number of errors involved. Without Zach, we would not have easily been able to take on this task. Zach is an overall fantastic employee who takes initiative even beyond his position at University Catering.

Professionalism:

Zach is our most professional employee. Whenever he is a manager for an event he always dresses one step up from what is required. When he is supposed to wear a button up and tie he will always add a blazer. Zach is one of the few staff members who will always find the client and introduce himself and try to start a friendly conversation with them either about their event or just about how their day is going. No matter whether he is a lead or a manager for the event he is always looking for ways to make it look more polished. When the event gets started Zach always walks around the event space to look for things that could be done and ways he could make the client happier with how the event is going. When the event is over he will try to find the client again before they leave to discuss how they thought everything went and what they thought he could do to make the next event with them even better. Zach is the student that we go to if we need to make sure is something is done properly and handled with care.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

Zach is a vital member of our student staff and his contribution to our efforts is unparalleled. Zach comes to work excited to help others. He always goes above and beyond when looking for new tasks or opportunities to teach new caterers helpful tips. Further, Zach exudes exemplary customer service. Often he will meet with the client multiple times to discuss how he can help or how he can make the event even better for them. Zach's dedication to the continued growth and quality of service offered by our department is unmatched by his peers. Zach has recently taken it upon himself to automate our packing list process. While this task was unprompted by any of his supervisors, he realized there was a need for increased efficiency in this area. Automating packing lists may seem like a little task however, considering how much time preparation for a single event takes, this greatly increases productivity. The impact of Zach's contribution to the department will be seen for many years to come. Zach works diligently to ensure that every aspect of his events have been carefully thought out. Further, Zach is selfless and will always put the needs of the department before his own.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Heather Showalter/Asst. Director of Banquets & Catering

Department: Banquets & Catering UH&D

Date: 2/10/2016

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Rojahn Kakavandi

Student ID# 00842377
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 130 N Linn St, Apt 2430
Iowa City, IA 52245

Permanent Address: 705 Ridgewood Dr, Apt 1D
Decorah, IA 52101

Phone: 563-419-6516

Email: rojahn-kakavandi@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Samantha Vancel, Linda Varvel, & Chelle Lehman

Nominating Department: Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

Nominator's Phone: 319-335-3530; 319-335-3511; 319-335-5702

Nominator's Email: samantha-vancel@uiowa.edu; linda-varvel@uiowa.edu; chelle

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Rojahn Kakavandi

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Rojahn is the WiSE Peer Mentoring and Ambassadors Assistant. She works closely with the WiSE Ambassadors, WiSE Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator, and WiSE Co-Director for On Campus Programs as necessary to maintain and improve the WiSE Undergraduate Peer Mentoring Program and WiSE Ambassadors Student Group.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

In the 4 years I, Sam Vancel, have supervised Rojahn, she has easily become one of the most reliable people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Rojahn does all the things you would expect of someone who is reliable. She is on time and if she is going to be late, she communicates with me. She completes tasks in a timely manner and always by the due date. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her. She is always willing to help, whether volunteering to work when we need extra staff at an event or staying after to help clean up. One reason Rojahn is so reliable is she's trustworthy. If I were to be too sick to be at an event, I would not hesitate to call Rojahn and ask her to lead the event in my place. I trust Rojahn to represent WiSE at events. For instance, we go to several information fairs a year in an effort to recruit prospective students. I always advocate sending Rojahn because she has become so good at talking prospective students and their families about why WiSE programs are beneficial for women in STEM. In fact, I think she is often better at recruiting students to our programs than our professional staff because she provides the perspective of a student.

Quality of Work:

Rojahn always puts great care and effort into the work she does for WiSE, which results in a product that is high caliber. Rojahn's high quality work stems from a passion she has for WiSE. When you talk to her, it is evident she believes in the mission of WiSE and values the work we do. Rojahn is always trying to improve her work. She does this through asking for feedback from both professional staff and students in WiSE. For example, each year the WiSE Ambassador's put on a mock networking event. After last year's mock networking event, Rojahn scheduled a meeting with me and the students who helped plan it to discuss strengths and ideas for improvement. When it came time to plan this year's mock networking event, the students planning it (including Rojahn) used her notes from that meeting to decide what changes to make to the event. The changes they made helped the event flow better, resulted in the recruitment of more students to participate in the event, and reduced the cost. These changes produced a mock networking event that was better than the previous year's event.

Initiative:

One of the places I have seen the most growth in Rojahn is in her willingness to take initiative. Rojahn has become a self-starter. She is able to identify items and areas that need attention and then works to improve them. For instance, the WiSE Ambassadors usually struggle to plan events over the summer so they can hit the ground running at the beginning of the academic year. Rojahn saw this as something that needed improvement. Over the summer she developed a virtual retreat, which was a power point that outlined her ideas for events for the year. She sent this out to all of the members of the executive board and asked them to provide written feedback on her ideas and share their own ideas. She told me she thought this would work well because it provided the officers with a venue to discuss ideas, but they could do so at a time that was convenient for them. It did work and for the first time in 5 years, the WiSE Ambassadors began the year with several events already planned. Rojahn also takes initiative by finding opportunities for her own personal growth. She wanted to learn more about serving LGBTQ individuals, so she participated in both Safe Zone trainings offered by CDE.

Professionalism:

Rojahn demonstrates professionalism in her work with WiSE in many ways. When representing WiSE, Rojahn is always knowledgeable and well spoken. When talking with prospective students and their families, she communicates clearly and is able to answer any of their questions. Rojahn is also poised. When something unexpected happens she does not panic. Instead, she finds a way to solve the problem, asking for help if she needs it. Rojahn also demonstrates professionalism by taking constructive criticism in stride. For instance, she received an e-mail with some negative feedback about an event she organized for the WiSE Ambassadors. Some students would have taken the feedback personally. Rojahn thought the individual's suggestions were useful and asked me if we could talk about how to incorporate them into next year's event.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

When talking about Rojahn, someone once said to me, "That girl is amazing. She is truly something special. Make sure you hang on to her." I agree with everything that person said. Rojahn is truly something special and she has made a unique contribution to WiSE. Being a woman majoring in a STEM field, Rojahn is able to provide us the perspective of someone from the demographic we seek to serve. This has helped us improve our programming. When developing events, I will ask Rojahn, "Do you think our students will find this useful?" or "How can we improve this event so it will be more beneficial to our students?". Rojahn has also experienced WiSE programming firsthand. She lived in the Be-WiSE LLC and joined WiSE Ambassadors during her freshman year. These experiences have allowed her to talk to parents and prospective students about why she personally found WiSE programming beneficial. Rojahn sharing her personal story is a much more powerful recruiting tool than me telling parents about supports we provide or the research behind our programming.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Linda Varvel & Chelle Lehman - WiSE Co-Directors

Department: Women in Science and Engineering

Date: 2-17-17



Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

3307 Seamans Center
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
319-335-3530
wise@uiowa.edu
www.uiowa.edu/~wise

February 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to support the nomination of Rojahn Kakavandi for the University of Iowa Student Employee of the Year. Rojahn is an outstanding student employee for our Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program and she is absolutely deserving of this recognition.

As new Co-Directors for WiSE, we became acquainted with Rojahn in August after we began in our new roles. However, Rojahn is not new to our program. She has been working with WiSE to support the success of women in STEM majors for four years. Most recently, she has served as the WiSE Peer Mentoring and Ambassadors Assistant. This position provides administrative and programmatic support to our graduate student who oversees these programs, as well as to us, as Co-Directors. It was clear from the moment we met Rojahn that she is reliable and motivated. Additionally, she completes her job tasks while also bringing a warm and welcoming spirit to the WiSE program.

Rojahn's leadership initiative is unmatched. Her role as President of the WiSE Ambassadors intersects with her student employee role as an assistant to the Ambassadors for WiSE. Rojahn is able to seamlessly lead the women in her group to achieve success in their programming and outreach events while also keeping the WiSE program up to speed on the needs the group has or the ways in which we could support them. This is also due to the high level of professionalism Rojahn exhibits. We have not met many undergraduate students with the poise that Rojahn displays. She has an advanced ability to interact with faculty, staff, and community members in a way that we have not seen in other student employees. Sam Vancel, one of our WiSE graduate students and Rojahn's direct supervisor, has been able to call on Rojahn to assist in a number of tasks that we would not typically feel a student employee would be equipped to do. However, Sam has been able to ask Rojahn to serve as a representative of WiSE at a variety on-campus programs, outreach initiatives and recruitment events. She is well spoken and can easily communicate the vast knowledge she has of WiSE to those that she interacts with.

Another asset that makes Rojahn stand out is her vision. She is consistently strategic in the work she does for us in WiSE. When we plan events, Rojahn is the first to ask for a discussion about what went well and what can be improved. She saves her notes, and uses them for future events in order to make improvements every single time. She is a role model to all women in WiSE and the type of student our program aims to produce.

Given the many positive qualities Rojahn has shown us as our student employee, we have no doubt she is a deserving recipient of the University of Iowa Student Employee of the Year award. Thank you for your consideration in awarding Rojahn with this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Varvel
Co-Director
(319) 335-3700
linda-varvel@uiowa.edu

Chelle Lehman
Co-Director
(319) 335-5702
chelle-lehman@uiowa.edu

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Gabriela Magalhães

Student ID# 00827918
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 712 E. Market Street
Apt. 10, Iowa City Iowa 52245

Permanent Address: 850 Colony Drive
Davenport, Iowa 52806

Phone: 5632090350

Email: gabriela-magalhaes@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Raychel Vasseur

Nominating Department: Language Media Center

Nominator's Phone: 319.335.2334

Nominator's Email: raychel-vasseur@uiowa.edu

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Gabriela Magalhães

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Multimedia Development Studio Assistant–Language Media Center
Provides support and training to ensure software and hardware resources are used effectively. Assists users with multimedia equipment and software, creates digital video and audio projects, manages social media and performs routine cleaning and maintenance.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Bela is absolutely reliable, accountable, and dependable. She arrives on time for her work hours and can be counted on to show up consistently, only missing work when she is ill. She always communicates with us if circumstances prevent her from coming to work and always collaborates with LMC staff to make up her hours missed. She can be trusted to do what she promises to do and she always completes tasks in a timely fashion. She also follows up with her clients or LMC staff to be sure that the completed product or answers to questions get to the appropriate person. Because of her dependability, the LMC professional staff does not hesitate to turn to her for support in accomplishing special projects and tasks. Bela keeps us informed of her progress, researches alternative ways to better accomplish the task, and appries us of any special circumstances that arise with us. In sum, she possesses a very strong work ethic and demonstrates excellent teamwork skills.

Quality of Work:

Bela performs to high standards in everything that she does. She is skillful, efficient, and effective. During the 2015-2016 academic year, Bela worked as an ITC front desk monitor at the LMC, so we had ample evidence of her excellent technical aptitude and great people skills. When she began working in the Multimedia Development Studio, she quickly acquired the applied technical expertise needed to be effective in her new role, asking questions and doing additional research on her own. In particular, she developed proficiency with video and graphics editing and graphic design. Bela has become a go-to person for learning about and solving difficult technical problems with digital media. Recently, she figured out how to salvage a corrupted video file with irreplaceable content within a tight deadline. Another time, she managed to manually add subtitles to a German video and correct its faulty timing. She also is not afraid to ask questions or contribute ideas to projects. She is both service- and goal-oriented, and strives to finish tasks on or before deadlines. She is able to work independently and performs all her routine duties with little or no supervision or prompting required.

Initiative:

In fall of 2016, the LMC looked to update its Digital Audio Laboratories and invited representatives from the Sanako company to give demonstrations and set up a trial period on Studio computers. Bela attended the demonstration and took on the task of becoming the local software expert, thoroughly reading the user guide and watching numerous training videos so she was knowledgeable and able to help anyone who wanted to test the lab. She gave thorough, impressive explanations and demonstrations to those who came to test the product. Additionally, as the LMC was in transition replacing the director and a staff person, Bela took over management of digital signage and social media accounts for the LMC and the DWLLC. When given the opportunity to transition to the new, university-wide digital signage system and Localist, Bela was an integral part of the initiation and decision to streamline this process, enabling the DWLLC to run more efficiently. As part of this role, she receives, edits, formats, posts, and removes digital signs for the two DWLLC digital signs. She also posts relevant news and events on the Facebook pages of the LMC and the DWLLC, as well as to the LMC website.

Professionalism:

Bela conducts herself in a very professional and mature manner – a quality we seek in all of our undergraduate student employees. Ours is a very diverse and international community and Bela is able to work cooperatively and respectfully with everyone. Bela communicates well with the LMC staff as well as the faculty and TAs who use the Studio. She provides one-on-one help in a low-key and non-judgmental manner – a particularly useful style when assisting novice users who sometimes struggle with technology. Additionally, because of Bela's expertise and professional demeanor, LMC professional staff and DWLLC faculty frequently ask her to attend and contribute to important meetings about issues involving social media and technology.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

Bela holds a unique undergraduate student position in that she provides dedicated local help to DWLLC faculty and TAs to develop multimedia for language teaching and learning. Unlike our other student employees, Bela actively contributes to the creation of new materials and the one-on-one training needs of Studio users. Furthermore, Bela is a double major in international relations and Portuguese so she understands the unique, eclectic mix of different cultures in the DWLLC. This gives her valuable insight into serving the unique needs of the language learners and teachers that she assists.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Raychel Vasseur, Instructional Services Specialist

Department: Language Media Center

Date: 2/15/2017



**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

**Division of World Languages,
Literatures and Cultures**

111 Phillips Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
319-335-2923 Fax 319-335-2990

Dear Student of the Year Award Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter to recommend Bela Magalhaes for Administrative Support Services Student Worker of the Year. I personally hired Bela as a Language Media Center (LMC) student monitor and have worked closely with her as her supervisor for the past two years. I was initially interested in her joining our team because of her academic interest in Portuguese and International relations. She proved to be an excellent student worker and very quickly learned all of the skills required to be successful in the LMC. The Multimedia Development Studio Assistant position is only offered to the most experienced LMC student monitors whose academic and professional goals most closely align with the mission of the LMC and the Division of World, Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC). Bela's focus on foreign language and international relations and her ability to work closely with DWLLC clients from a wide variety of cultural and language backgrounds, made her the ideal candidate for this promotion. When I first offered her the job as Multimedia Development Studio (Studio) Assistant, she was hesitant to take it because the 20-hour a week time commitment would require her to leave her part-time ITS position. She felt dedicated to both jobs and ultimately, after discussion with both her supervisors, decided to take the LMC 20 hours a week job.

Over the past year it has been obvious that we made the right decision to choose Bela for the Studio Assistant position. The LMC has experienced tremendous transition over the last year when the director retired, one instructional services specialist resigned and a new director and two new instructional services specialist were hired. When I took over the Director position I was quite busy learning the duties of my new position as well as performing the duties of my previous instructional services position for 3 months before a replacement was hired. Bela's support during this transition was critical and very much appreciated. Among various other Studio responsibilities, Bela took over most of the LMC video conversion projects as well as spearheaded a restructure of LMC and DWLLC social media presence. She has been integral in getting the DWLLC up to speed in digital signage, Facebook, and DWLLC and LMC website news and events. She has also been an important support person for Sanako Audio Labs by becoming the local expert for Sanako audio lab support. Having undertaken this responsibility, she has spent a large amount of time training the 12 LMC student monitors in use of the audio lab and was key in disseminating information to interested faculty when we held a demonstration of a new upgraded audio lab.

Looking back at the last year, my job would have been next to impossible without Bela's support and collaboration. She is eager to learn and happy to help with any task presented to her. Bela has become an essential part of the LMC staff and I highly recommend that she be considered as Administrative Support Student Worker of the Year.

Sincerely,

Brianna Janssen Sanchez
Director- Language Media Center
University of Iowa

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Rebecca Mansfield

Student ID# 01041481
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 100 Shiloh Drive, Kalona, Iowa 52247

Permanent Address: 100 Shiloh Drive, Kalona, Iowa 52247

Phone: 319-430-1754

Email: rebecca-mansfield@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Suzette Blanchard and Annette Beck

Nominating Department: Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology

Nominator's Phone: 319-335-6102

Nominator's Email: suzette-blanchard@uiowa.edu

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Rebecca Mansfield

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Success at Iowa TA: Success at Iowa is a course required of all first-year students. The course is made up of modules that address topics such as campus resources and online tools specific to Iowa. Rebecca helps build these modules and also answers questions students have regarding the course.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Rebecca is consistently on time, meets deadlines and the product of her work is exceptional. As her manager, I do not have to be concerned about checking in on Rebecca to ensure that that she is completing her work accurately. She is a part-time student worker, but I feel that she has a similar level of dependability to that of my fellow full-time colleagues. She has a remarkable maturity in her ability to communicate when she can and cannot take on more tasks. Throughout my six years managing students in this position, I cannot think of another student who has been more driven for success and quality. I honestly do not know how she balances her responsibilities so well and feel that we all could learn from her. She has an amazing drive that pushes the entire team forward.

Quality of Work:

Rebecca's quality of work is beyond note-worthy. My expectations for established students is that they can work on all of the parts of the module production process and then transfer the module to me for a last set of instructions. These instructions are usually based on a desire for cohesion with other modules and personal aesthetic preference. I have to say, I was shocked when after only a few months on the job, Rebecca was providing me with work that did not need this guidance.

She was not only tuned into the nuance of module cohesion, she also somehow learned what I looked for in terms of overall visual appeal. She knew when to ask questions and paid close attention to the individual choices I made in the other modules. I can't express how remarkable this is.

From there, her work simply got better and better. I have never been in a situation where I felt so confident about a student's work. What is even more exceptional is that she has gone on to research, test and implement changes to the modules that have improved their appearance, accessibility and responsiveness. All around, the Success at Iowa course has become better because of Rebecca's eye and commitment to quality.

Initiative:

Rebecca needs very little guidance in her work. When she is confronted with an issue, she is willing to research and test solutions prior to asking for help. A simple example is: If a student in the class has a question that might already have been asked, Rebecca will look through previous email exchanges to see if the question might already have been asked and how we responded in the past. Although this might sound simple, it does not come natural to everyone. I appreciate her ability to know when to ask for help. She also has wonderful intuition in terms of when an issue or question should be escalated to me.

Along with this, I appreciate that she pushes the team forward. In 2016, when a content specialist asked to use video in their module, Rebecca was the first to volunteer to research how to make this happen. This spring, when a different content specialist requested something else new and complex, Rebecca was right there to explore the possibilities. I trust her to explore all of the avenues that are possible. I honestly never thought that I would have a student who would know parts of the software that we use better than myself.

Professionalism:

Rebecca takes her work very seriously. I am often surprised at her level of dedication to our team. In particular, I appreciate that she takes the time to think about how the team will be affected when she is gone and how she can help the team if others need to be gone.

I also appreciate how receptive she is to feedback. At times, I see this feedback increase her drive to create work that goes beyond the expected. It is almost as though she is telling me: "I didn't get it one hundred percent perfect the first time, so I am going to delve deeper and not just give you the edited work, but in fact, I will give you more -- the unexpected."

It is essential that all of my team members write and speak clearly and professionally. Rebecca does a great job of this. I have seen her interact with many University staff members and students and she always proves to be confident and professional.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

Rebecca consistently goes above and beyond what is asked for. I feel that she challenges our entire team to be better. I have had multiple students over my years in this position and have never seen a student more committed. When she is here—she is fully present.

In Fall 2016, Success at Iowa saw some major revisions happen, and with Rebecca's help, our team was able to create over a dozen new modules! Creating this many new modules (in a short time-frame) was a challenge for our team; however, with Rebecca's help we went beyond just producing the modules. We explored new avenues in our technology and have been able to develop new ways for students to interact with the course.

Without her help, I am not sure that we would know what we know now about responsive video, accessibility in Captivate, creating quiz-based slides and branching. Some of these things are vital to the running of the course, while others create a more engaging experience for our students. Whatever the case, Rebecca played a vital role in all of them and deserves recognition for her commitment to her position and to our largest class here at Iowa.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Suzette Blanchard and Annette Beck

Department: Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology

Date: 02/14/2017



Monday, February 13, 2017

Dear Student of the Year Committee:

I am very pleased to recommend Rebecca Mansfield for the Student of the Year Award. Rebecca has been a Teaching Assistant (TA) for Success at Iowa the past couple of years. Success at Iowa is a required online course for all incoming students, including transfer and international students. Overall, about 7,200 students take this course each year. <https://newstudents.uiowa.edu/success-iowa-online-course> is a link explaining the course. This course provides an overview and orientation to topics that help student acclimate to The University of Iowa. <http://success.uiowa.edu/> is a link to the modules for Success at Iowa that Rebecca helps create.

The TAs for this course not only answer emails from students, but also do all the production for the course. Therefore, I am recommending Rebecca for this award for two reasons:

1. **Answering emails:** Success at Iowa is one of the first exposures students have to The University of Iowa. Rebecca answers student email in a professional manner and helps to direct them in finding the correct answers. She has exhibited leadership in training new TAs and also collaborates with the course instructors when she doesn't know the answers.
2. **Production of Modules:** Rebecca has been instrumental in training new TAs on how to do comprehensive production using Adobe Captivate, Adobe Photoshop and the recording of content. It takes months to learn these duties and Rebecca eases the burden for new staff. She has also helped communicate with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to help shape the content of modules as well as offered ideas for new modules.

Rebecca has worked for Enterprise Instructional Technology for the past couple of years. I have seen her grow professionally and personally. She has represented our department and the University of Iowa well by tying together student orientation and student success by helping to share valuable feedback from students to shape our future endeavors.

The work that Rebecca Mansfield does directly relates to the Success at Iowa team and to the strategic goals of the campus.

This is an excellent use of the Student of the Year award and I wholeheartedly endorse Rebecca Mansfield as an exceptional recipient. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Annette Beck
Director, Enterprise Instructional Technology (EIT)
Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Anna Seydel

Student ID# 00775028

(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: CAD-RESEARCH ENGINEERING

111 ERF

Permanent Address: 2849 Newport Rd NE

Iowa City, IA 52240-7837

Phone: (319) 337-6149

Email: anna-seydel@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Kimberly Farrell

Nominating Department: Center for Computer-Aided Design (CCAD)

Nominator's Phone: 319-400-4155

Nominator's Email: kimberly-farrell@uiowa.edu

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Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Anna Seydel

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Research & development for Santos(tm) human simulation software. Primary focus includes programming using c++ and C#, research and implementation of optimization-based motion capture processing methods, and mathematical human modeling.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Anna has always been a reliable employee. She has consistently been a source of guidance for her peers with less experience, actively participates in our scheduled meetings, and gives advanced notice for absence. Moreover, she can be relied upon to meet deadlines and is forthcoming regarding any potential delays or issues that arise. While Anna is determined to solve any challenges that arise herself, she also knows when to ask for help or discuss potential solutions with the team.

Quality of Work:

Anna's work is continuously impressive and goes well beyond expectations. Shortly after she was hired, she completed a research project to compare motion capture files using a task-based, biomechanical range-of-motion score. She then implemented this research as a usable tool in the Santos(tm) human simulation software, which required learning a new programming language and interacting with a large existing code base. From there, Anna researched existing optimization-based motion capture processing techniques, then developed and implemented a new constraint that predicts anthropometry more reliably and improves the accuracy of the processed motion. Using her new constraint, users of the Santos(tm) software suite can import motion capture files and analyze the biomechanics of the motion with greater confidence in the results. She is the primary author of a research paper on this work, and the abstract has already been accepted to the 8th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics 2017 (AHFE).

Initiative:

Since starting her position at the Virtual Soldier Research (VSR) lab, Anna has proven to be self-motivated and thorough. She is curious and driven to not only solve any problem she is given, but also to continue improving upon the solution. In her motion capture processing work, she has on several occasions presented ideas for improving the optimization results. In one specific case, she initiated a study on the effect of restricting or loosening anthropometric limits given to the optimization problem and identified the ideal range. Anna has also gone above and beyond to thoroughly document her work and results.

Professionalism:

Anna is a professional and respectful employee. Her professionalism is especially apparent with regard to the quality of her work. Anna works to ensure that the end product, of both her code and her research, is not just a proof-of-concept, but a robust and reliable solution that can be used in a professional software product. In this regard, she ensures her work is well-tested and behaves as expected in the full range of potential inputs. In addition, she understands and adheres to our professional-level coding and commenting guidelines and makes her code intuitive and readable to anyone who needs to interact with it.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

While working at VSR, Anna has demonstrated a rare combination of talent in both practical application and research diligence. When it comes to programming, she is able to implement her work with clear, concise code and have a solution up and running fairly quickly, without getting lost in the details or overall design. On the other side, whether there is an issue to debug or a research problem that needs to be solved, she is able to dig deeper and be rigorous in her approach. This is a unique combination, where most students and professionals alike who excel at implementing a quick, pragmatic solution will not have the ability or patience to solve a problem that requires a methodical approach. Likewise, those who are typically rigorous and theoretical can sometimes fall behind and get bogged down in the details. Anna is able to use both approaches to develop new methods to solve interesting research problems and implement them in professional-level software.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Kimberly Farrell

Department: Center for Computer-Aided Design (CCAD)

Date: 02/16/2017

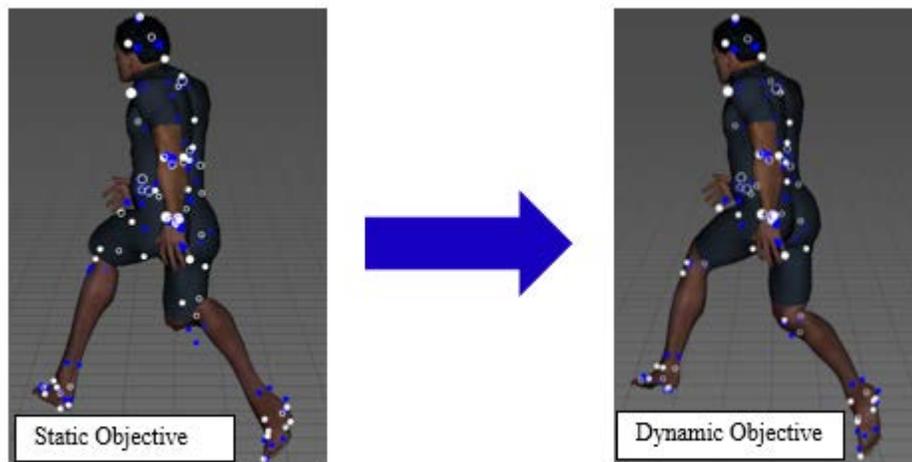
Kimberly Farrell
Senior Software Engineer
111 Engineering Research Facility
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52240
February 16, 2017

Student Employment
213 Calvin Hall
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1315

To the Offices of Student Employment:

I have had the pleasure of supervising Anna Seydel, an undergraduate research assistant, here at the Virtual Soldier Research (VSR) Program at the Center of Computer-Aided Design (CCAD) since October of 2015. In her time here, she has been working both as a researcher and a programmer on our human simulation software, Santos™.

Anna has proven to be self-motivated and thorough. Shortly after starting with us, she completed literature searches with minimal supervision to develop a range-of-motion score for the Santos™ digital human. When implementing this into the software, she was faced with a large amount of existing code and a programming language she had never used (C#), and she was able to quickly pick up what she needed to get her feature working. In her time here, she had been continuously impressive and is consistently exceeding expectations. Most impressively, she took on a research project to develop a new objective for our motion capture processing optimization. She helped finalize the approach, derived the equations, and implemented her approach using another programming language (c++). The new objective she developed improved the prediction of the subject's anthropometry to give much more accurate results when capturing motion onto our digital human, Santos™. As a result, she is the primary author of a research paper on this work. For this paper, she has compiled and documented her results, captured images, and drafted the paper itself. The abstract for her research paper has already been accepted to the 8th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics 2017 (AHFE). The image below shows visually the difference her latest work has made, and this improvement also increases the accuracy of the biomechanical analyses in the software.



Anna is a uniquely talented, intelligent, and hard-working student, who has been an asset to our lab. With this letter, I strongly support her candidacy and hope that the committee will see the same value in her work and research as I do.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Farrell
Senior Software Engineer
111 Engineering Research Facility

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Nominee Information Form

Nominee's Name: Rochelle Yang

Student ID# _yijyang
(Do not use SSN)

Local Address: 115 S Grand Ave, PHAR S533, Iowa City, IA 52242

Permanent Address: _____

Phone: 319-335-8803

Email: rochelle-yang@uiowa.edu

Nominator's Name: Chris Parker

Nominating Department: College of Pharmacy, Health Sciences Research

Nominator's Phone: 319-384-4127

Nominator's Email: Christopher-parker@uiowa.edu

This sheet will be retained by the institution. If the nominee is selected for regional consideration, this form will not be included with the material forwarded for review for the **Region's** Student Employee of the Year.

Institution's Name
The University of Iowa

Student Employee of the Year Campus Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: Rochelle Yang

Employment Category (select one):

- Administrative Support (i.e., office work, administrative support, clerical, operations, marketing and design)
- Student/Campus Services (i.e., catering, transportation services, hospitality, service provider, cashier, facilities, physical trainer, lifeguard, tutor)
- Science, Health, and Engineering (i.e., lab work, health sciences, academic and scientific research, CAD, computer and technical jobs)

Nominee's Job Title and Brief Description (330 character limit):

Research Assistant, Pharmacy Practice and Science:

Responsible for assisting with design, implementation, and/or dissemination of research activities. Work was focused on two large, federally funded multi-site pharmacist intervention studies of patients at high risk for cardiovascular disease.

In the spaces provided below, please provide examples of the nominee's reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness of contribution. (1,200 character limit for each category)

Reliability:

Rochelle clearly exhibits an engaging, enthusiastic, and genuine work ethic and inter-relational persona. Along with her ability to succinctly communicate research protocols to colleagues and other stakeholders, she stands out among peers as someone who understands the importance of trust and reliability in science.

One specific example involved her role implementing recruitment and enrollment activities for a multi-site study that partnered with primary care clinics. Rochelle was trained on the study protocol, and soon began contacting patients for initial and follow up study visits. The protocol was complex and involved contacting prospective patients, arranging logistics for and communicating with clinic staff about pending visits, implementing visit procedures (e.g., taking blood pressures, asking survey questions, abstracting medical record data, etc.) and submitting reports. She so readily demonstrated her trustworthiness in this role that when the need arose for training other study coordinators, she gladly volunteered. Note that training others to conduct complex research activities is a role typically reserved for seasoned and highly functioning research staff.

Quality of Work:

The kinds of tasks that Rochelle has taken on are mostly complex and/or non-repetitive. As such, a high attention to detail, the ability to anticipate barriers to implementation, and knowing how and when to ask questions are of prime importance. Rochelle functions at the highest level in all of these respects, and these are not features that are typically abundant among professional staff, let alone students.

Rochelle helped develop and implement remote patient eligibility screening for a pharmacist intervention study. The tasks involved obtaining remote access to an electronic medical record system to identify eligible patients, inviting those patients into the study, and communicating case status to the clinic care team. This was uncharted territory for the research team as all aspects of the process needed to be considered, developed, and implemented, and done so in accordance with approved Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocols. These kinds of tasks are challenging for many full time research support staff who have been extensively trained and the fact that they were implemented successfully by a student should speak volumes to Rochelle's quality of work.

Initiative:

Since beginning work on our research team, Rochelle has consistently demonstrated follow-through on assigned tasks, with little to no prompting, and an enthusiastic willingness to assume novel tasks. Rochelle has also provided feedback and insight into issues and processes which she was not specifically queried about and she has done so in a supportive constructive way, and in the spirit of optimizing the team's research enterprise. For example, without prompting, she provided updates on project activities, she confirmed with project managers whether a course of action was or was not in accordance with study protocols, and she offered constructive feedback on drafts of study materials.

However, perhaps most impressive and indicative of her initiative and commitment to research in her field of study is the fact that in less than 2 years of her involvement with our research team, Rochelle has presented 2 posters at academic conferences (1 of which won first place), and has a full manuscript under review at a professional journal. This pace of activity which Rochelle exhibits is extremely rare among students at this point in their professional career.

Professionalism:

Rochelle recognizes the success of our team is more important than any successes she will accomplish as an individual. Her behaviors and actions exemplify integrity as she strives to perform at a higher level than is required for each and every role she takes on.

It is critical that the students who communicate with our patients exemplify the qualities and characteristics of our leadership since it is the students who first communicate with the patients. Rochelle literally wrote the book for us on how the role of the student pharmacist should be performed. Our trust in her judgement and decision making was the major reason she was asked to create the policies and procedure manual for our students. We felt extremely confident that if every student performed at a level similar to Rochelle we would be providing an optimal service for our patients.

Rochelle portrays a demeanor that reflects confidence in all she does. She acts with strong ethical conduct in all activities she performs. There are many examples of times she has taken the initiative and came up with innovative approaches to improve our workflow processes in an effort to make things more efficient and effective.

Uniqueness of Contribution:

It would be very easy for a student employee working on our team to do only what was asked of them. It can also be daunting as a student to make suggestions to a superior about ways for improvement. Rochelle has never shied away from opportunities to provide suggestions on ways to make our workflow process and patient experience better. There are many instances when Rochelle has offered to train new students and new staff members. Her ability to make new staff and students confident about how to perform their duties is second to none.

Rochelle does an exceptional job managing the many activities she participates in and not allowing them to impact her ability to do her job. She continues to request additional responsibilities and asks to investigate additional clinical opportunities that will enhance the patient care we provide. One specific example of this occurred when she asked to host a healthcare provider from another state who had expertise in some of the clinical services we provide. Rochelle recognized this would not only benefit our team, but that she would also share the knowledge of this guest with the students from the College of Pharmacy.

You may provide additional information on this nominee on a separate sheet. (2 page limit)

Name/Title of Nominator: Chris Parker, PharmD, BCACP – Director of Clinical Services

Department: College of Pharmacy Health Sciences Research

Date: 2/17/17

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Ms. Rochelle Yang, student pharmacist and research assistant in the College of Pharmacy, Department of Health Sciences Research., for the Student Employee of the Year award.

I first met Rochelle 2 years ago when she proactively reached out to me about opportunities in pharmacist implementation research. Students interested in this line of research are extremely rare and those who do contact me often do with the intention of using the experience as a CV builder. It was apparent after our first interaction with Rochelle that she was genuinely interested in learning more about this type of research and how it would advance the profession she was pursuing.

In addition to being a high-performing student in a demanding professional curriculum, Rochelle participates in multiple student organizations, including being selected by her peers to both the honor and leadership societies. Rochelle currently serves as the chapter president of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. Each of these professional organizations on their own take copious amounts of time and commitment, making her active involvement in all of them that much more impressive.

As if her current level of involvement and dedication is not impressive enough, Rochelle has used her drive and unquestionable commitment to qualify for the 2017 Boston Marathon. This accomplishment has been a goal of hers for many years and she has successfully compiled her time, energy, resources and drive to achieve her goal.

In less than 2 years Rochelle has presented two posters at academic meetings (won first place at one of these venues), and has a full manuscript under review at an academic journal. This alone is a serious accomplishment for a student at this point in their academic career, and Rochelle was able to accomplish these activities and much more in a kind, collegial, scientifically rigorous manner.

I have worked with several highly motivated students. It is her intelligence, level of commitment and innovation that makes her a top level candidate for this award. I give Rochelle my highest personal and professional nomination.

Sincerely,



Chris Parker, PharmD, BCACP
Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services
College of Pharmacy – Health Sciences Research