

Name: Lusia ludmila Veksler  
Working Title:  
Payroll Title: BLANK AST 3

Dear Colleagues (PDF version coming separately):

It is our great pleasure to write this letter in support of Mrs. Lusia Veksler for the Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year Award Program. Briefly, Lusia exemplifies what all of us hope to see in the very best staff we have the honor of working with at UC San Diego.

Some examples of her excellence with reference to the award criteria:

Founded and leads a Communication in English program for graduate students in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering who are using English as a second language. Her aim in this effort has been to encourage greater engagement by students new to the community who find communicating with other students to be a challenge. We personally found her efforts to be beneficial in observing our graduate students becoming more outgoing, assertive, and positive. (Inclusive excellence; Innovation and proactive leadership)

Led an initiative to obtain software for pre-submission plagiarism detection in research-related publications to avoid adverse impact on UC San Diego and our faculty. Over a six-month period, she negotiated on behalf of a group of faculty in our department that grew to include faculty across the Jacobs School of Engineering to obtain a per-user license for iThenticate for \$10/year, significantly reduced from an incredibly expensive \$100/use fee that some faculty were paying. The software streamlines assessment of plagiarism to a few-second effort via an online interface. Plagiarism is the number one issue in research misconduct investigations at UC San Diego, and is growing annually. This solution is one of a very few shown to actually help avoid this problem. (Inclusive excellence; Build/relationships/partnerships; Support university practices, procedures and policies)

[REDACTED]

Intervened and led graduate student assistance and advice for a faculty member's large research group (~12 graduate students) [REDACTED], helping to avoid significant difficulties for the entire group. We believe you will receive separate recommendation letters from a number of students from that group dealing Lusia's extraordinary service. (Build relationships/partnerships; Extraordinary service to community)

Recorded several brief video training programs for faculty and students to cope with the changeover to SAP Concur, tailoring them to the attention and time-poor people in these groups. She has no doubt saved the university substantial costs and helped the faculty and students under her care adhere to university practices, procedures and policies. (Substantial cost-effectiveness; Support university practices, procedures and policies)

Participates in our department's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness (EDI) Committee as a staff member of her own accord. As a welcome and vocal member of this committee, she is an invaluable advocate for traditionally underrepresented groups in our department. (Inclusive excellence)

-Prof James Friend on behalf of Profs David Saintillan, Lonnie Petersen, Padmini Rangamani and David Saintillan