

## **Wendy Groves**

Research Grant Program Officer 3

Research Affairs: Vice-Chancellor Research

When Wendy Groves joined the Research Proposal Development Service (RPDS) in April 2018, she hit the ground running. Before she was even officially on board, Wendy stepped up to respond to a time-sensitive request for detailed information about a set of multimillion-dollar, interdisciplinary awards to UC San Diego faculty. Wendy rapidly assembled and presented the information in a format that maximized its value to campus leaders. Her new supervisor and colleagues were impressed, but they were not surprised. For Wendy had earned a reputation as an extraordinarily high-performer during more than eight years of service in several campus areas, including two Organized Research Units. Everywhere Wendy has worked, her supervisors and colleagues speak glowingly of her diverse talents, outstanding ability to think analytically and act strategically, and the positive energy she brings to everything she touches.

Wendy excels in all five domains relevant to the EOY award.

- Innovation and proactive leadership
- Build relationships/partnerships

While it would be easy to become hyper-focused on the myriad details of managing and facilitating progress of complex, proposal-development efforts, Wendy has an exceptional ability to simultaneously keep her eye on the big picture. And that picture includes partnership-building. Wendy led the formation of a new, campuswide Research-Development Network – a broadly inclusive community-of-practice that welcomes all campus professionals whose work involves helping investigators find and pursue research-funding opportunities. With more than two-dozen members, and growing, the group meets quarterly and communicates more frequently via a dedicated e-mail list. By encouraging members to share effective practices, and discuss challenges and solutions, the network serves as an effective professional-development resource for those who support the very high productivity of UC San Diego's faculty in preparing and submitting successful proposals. It is important to note that Wendy's leadership in establishing and expanding the UC San Diego Research-Development Network extends well beyond the responsibilities outlined in her job description and reflects extraordinary service to improving the campus community (more on that, below).

- Support university practices, procedures and policies

A synthetic thinker with a solution-oriented mindset, Wendy excels in conceiving of and advancing tools and processes that improve efficiency. When it became clear that a more efficient system was needed for tracking and reporting progress on RPDS' support for proposal efforts involving hundreds of investigators throughout campus, Wendy took the lead in coordinating development of a powerful new system. Then, when others might have called it "done", Wendy continued to further improve the capabilities of the system to capture and even more efficiently report on research-support efforts. The impact of this accomplishment has been a vastly improved ability to keep campus leaders informed about ambitious, large-proposal efforts, thus enabling even more vigorous and timely campus support for these high-stakes endeavors.

- Substantial cost-effectiveness

Wendy's sustained contributions to the development of high-value proposals result in major financial gain for the university in support of its educational and research missions. Wendy's contributions were vital to the success of a proposal to the National Nuclear Security Administration that resulted in a recent \$10.5-million award to the Center for Energy Research. Wendy's tireless work in coordinating the contributions of dozens of investigators at six UC campuses, two additional universities, a large multinational company, and four national laboratories was crucial to winning this very large award that is supporting not only research but also the training of approximately 60 graduate and undergraduate students over the five-year award period.

- Extraordinary service to community

Wendy's service-oriented activities reach beyond the campus, focusing on sustainability, education, and diversity. As a volunteer, Wendy generously applies her expertise in proposal development and sustainability as Coordinator of the Torrey Pines Elementary School Garden Program. Further afield, an initiative that Wendy launched at UC San Diego, Women in Algae – a series of events providing valuable networking opportunities for women in the growing algae industry – has been embraced at the national level. The U.S. Department of Energy now sponsors a webinar of the same name during a week-long celebration of women working in bioenergy research.

Wendy's exceptional professional performance and demonstrated skill in recognizing opportunities and bringing to fruition impactful initiatives are rooted in her deep dedication to achieving UC San Diego's vision. She is fully deserving of recognition and this award.