

Leanne Nordeman

Health Professions Educations Specialist 3

Health Sciences: Biomedical Sciences Graduate Programs

I am delighted to nominate Leanne Nordeman for the Exemplary Employee of the Year Award. Leanne joined the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program (BMS) in 2001. From the start, Leanne has exhibited a positive attitude; when asked to perform any task, Leanne's response is always yes. Eager to learn and to be all that UCSD has to offer, she has utilized numerous training opportunities to enhance how she can aid BMS and UCSD. Today, Leanne is an incredibly valued employee with exceptional leadership skills who is responsible for engendering a strong sense of community in our diverse group of ~180 students, ~250 faculty (spanning multiple departments) and staff.

As the Student Affairs Coordinator, Leanne works tirelessly beyond the typical 40 hours per week to meet the challenging demands of the large and complex BMS Graduate Program that was ranked as one of the top graduate programs nationwide by the National Research Council. I am especially impressed by Leanne's participation in organizing program activities held after hours and weekends, which require her to make special arrangements. Leanne's positive nature and professionalism is evident in every area she serves including student outreach, admissions and recruitment, student advising, student awards, program retreat organization, student graduate council participation, new student orientation, registration, monitoring academic progress, and coordinating student finances. Her outstanding communication and organizational skills help facilitate a high quality and cohesive atmosphere in the BMS Program despite its sprawling structure. Leanne is always present to make a difference with her positive approach and is held in high regard by all students and faculty. In light of her significant influence on their careers, the BMS students have recognized her with a "Graduate Student Association Support Staff Award".

Leanne is a founding member and Treasurer for the Graduate Resources and Advisors Network (GradNet; see <http://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/gradnet/index.html>) which is a UCSD campus volunteer staff organization that supports, develops, and empowers graduate staff and advisors in networking, organizing, and sharing of information and resources in order to advance and influence issues pertinent to graduate education at UCSD. Leanne has actively served on a number campus committees tasked with improving administrative processes, and she has taken a proactive approach to do the same in the office. Among her many accomplishments, Leanne has streamlined the online admissions process, greatly facilitating rapid decision making by our admissions committee. In the last year, she took on a complete restoration of the BMS website, working with two different campus groups to modernize user features while enhancing the efficiency of the underlying databases. As the primary administrative contact for the Admissions & Recruitment Committee, Leanne has exhibited a strong commitment to diversity and outreach. Leanne has designed and expanded tools used for diversity and outreach while furthering BMS Program goals by attending off-site diversity and outreach meetings to recruit top Ph.D. candidates. Through her efforts, the BMS program has been very successful at recruiting a diverse student body. Leanne actively seeks students from underrepresented groups with prospects for selection to top graduate programs and an interest in the biomedical sciences. Leanne is also the liaison with other university and outreach programs to entice students and facilitate an increase in applicants-she participates in local UCSD graduate outreach involving national recruitment events, campus visits, conference presentations, and recruitment fairs. In addition, Leanne advises individual prospective students when they visit and works directly with the IMSD (Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity) grant coordinator to facilitate and coordinate student admission to the BMS Graduate Program. Leanne is the go-to person who meets, greets, and follows up individually with prospective students. Adding to her community spirit, Leanne has also participated with the San Diego Special Olympics, with the San Diego Race for Autism, and with "Arms Wide Open" which is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching lives of children and adults with special needs.

In summary, BMS and UCSD are extremely fortunate to have Leanne's talents and community spirit serving us. She is without any doubt highly deserving of our campus's Exemplary Employee of the Year Award.