

Natalie Wolfe

Financial Analyst 3

Academic Affairs: Economics

UC San Diego is known for training pathbreaking scholars who go on to invent the future. It's also the launching point for some of our own most talented staff, including alumna Natalie Q. Wolfe ('06), our nominee for Exemplary Employee of the Year.

Natalie is Business Operations Manager in Economics, overseeing finance, human resources and a broad assortment of ad hoc projects. She is, in all areas, an exemplary staff member: ethical, smart, flexible, inordinately resourceful, creative, and a superb university citizen. Tasks I assign to Natalie get elegantly solved; they don't bounce back. Specifically, we nominate her for contributions in two areas, neglecting smaller contributions such as supervising creation of mock up for a proposed building, or preparing detailed alternate budget scenarios and briefing them to a roomful of Economics faculty.

Supporting University practices, procedures and policies

Natalie approaches tasks with an eye to supporting UCSD's mission of teaching, diversity, research and service, and across a remarkable range of activities. Most recently she ably shepherded several PhD students through their first (successful!) NSF grant proposals.

Graduating PhD Student Desmond Ang, who has just accepted offered a position at Harvard's Kennedy School, says "Natalie has been instrumental to my success at UCSD. Over the past few years, she helped me to secure grant and research support from the University of California, National Science Foundation and local public school districts. Applying for external support can be incredibly daunting for graduate students, but Natalie's graciousness and responsiveness made the process much less intimidating. I can't thank her enough for her help and wholeheartedly support her for Exemplary Employee of the Year."

In addition to supporting faculty and graduate students in their quests for funding, over the last three years Natalie has served as editor of our biannual e-newsletter Economics in Action which reaches over 1,200 alumni and community members. She coordinated the quarterly Economics Roundtable which brings together San Diego professional from policy, law, economics, and industry. She re-organized the department's balance sheets (over \$15M) into one workbook to align with the university's evolving definitions of department budgets, while enhancing their transparency for her chair (who claims to understand accounting). She manages our department's website which tells the story of our department's teaching, research and service, and its global impact. She worked with faculty to propose and receive one of the largest UC ILTI grants ever issued, which created an online Handbook for Microeconomics now used on almost every UC Campus.

Extraordinary service to the campus community

Natalie is a collaborative, intellectual leader and a lean six-sigma practitioner, known for working with others to solve problems and streamline processes. She has served on several Divisional committees and workgroups, is an active participant (5/5 rating) in UCSD's IdeaWave campaign, and will be serving as SME in Academic Affairs' Enterprise System Renewal in finance. A recent example of her talent is her feedback on a critical resource allocation for the Division. Natalie proposed a suggestion on one aspect of the formula. Assistant Dean Nieves Rankin ('91) agreed with the solution which resulted in a change to the methodology. According to Nieves "Natalie found creative ways to acquire resources for the Department and the Division as a whole. Her ideas benefited all the departments and programs in Social Sciences."

Laurel Welton ('08), Social Science Data/Decision Support Analyst adds "Time and again, Natalie has demonstrated the strategic thinking and diplomacy that make her an invaluable member of the Division of Social Sciences and UC San Diego community-at-large. She actively participated, contributed original ideas, evaluated and critiqued proposals, motivated participation from others in the group, and was integral to the production of the finished product currently used by administrative staff and faculty in the division."

Natalie is an invaluable asset to Economics, the Division of Social Sciences, and Academic Affairs as a whole. She is a UCSD alumna who is giving back in an extraordinary way. We echo Assistant Dean Nieves Rankin's sentiment: "In summary, I cannot think of anyone deserving of this honor but Natalie Wolfe."