

It is a pleasure to write this letter in support of Ms. Kristina Peterson-Wilson's nomination for the Washington State University Administrative Professional Contribution Award. I have known Kristina since I recruited her to serve as the administrative assistant to the provost position in 2013. Since that time, she has continued to expand her responsibilities and impact within the Provost's Office and WSU. Her professionalism, organization, and commitment to excellence are exhibited every day in her past and current roles within WSU.

Kristina Peterson-Wilson was hired into the role of Administrative Assistant to the Provost following the sudden retirement sudden departure of the long-time administrative assistant. At the time, Kristina served as the administrative assistant to Dr. Yogi Gupta, Director of the Institute of Shock Physics (ISP), and I had heard great things about her attitude and capabilities. Most people who know Dr. Gupta and the ISP would agree that it is a high performing unit that operates at an extremely fast pace. Dr. Gupta was very complementary of the job that Kristina had done for ISP and gave her significant, and much deserved, credit for the smooth operation of the Institute.

Through her time in the Provost's Office, Kristina has continued to assume greater responsibility and autonomy. Because of the sizable travel and meeting commitments of the provost, it is critical to have someone "at home" making certain the numerous administrative tasks are handled responsibly and efficiently. Ms. Peterson-Wilson provides this support in a near flawless fashion. As a result, academic administrators across the university have come to rely on Kristina as a friendly and informed resource and spokesperson for the Provost. She performs at a much higher level than an administrative assistant; she is a true assistant to the provost, and perhaps the descriptive title of "assistant provost" might be even more accurate.

In reflection, I believe the quality that makes Kristina Peterson-Wilson such a unique and valuable employee is her high energy, "can-do" attitude. Her personality is infectious, and she can change the culture and vibe of an office like few people I have had the pleasure to work with over my 30+ year career. She enjoys people, and people respond to her. She has high performance expectations for herself, and motivates others to also step up their game. She is one of those rare people who not only is extremely productive individually, but also makes everyone around her better.

Finally, Kristina is a Cougar through and through. As a former Cougar Guy & Gal, she bleeds crimson and grey and is highly committed to WSU. She will do anything for the institution and works tirelessly – weekends, evenings, etc. – to support WSU. She represents WSU in the community through her service on numerous philanthropic and service activities,.

In summary, I provide my highest endorsement for Ms. Kristina Peterson-Wilson's nomination for the Washington State University Administrative Professional Contribution Award. WSU has an excellent Administrative Professional staff and I am certain there are many capable nominees, but I think you will be hard pressed to find any staff member who has made a greater impact on the success of the university over the past decade