

Administrative Professional Advisory Council

AP Contribution Award

Washington State University

Dear Administrative Professional Advisory Council Members,

When reviewing the criteria for this award, I wholeheartedly believe that Gerik Kimble personifies what makes an exceptional administrative professional employee through his work at Washington State University and within the Higher Education space nationally. Gerik is an Executive Director in Business and Financial Services, specifically leading the Modernization Finance and Technical teams that support Workday for the university.

Gerik brings an energetic and positive attitude that is infectious across his teams as well as institutions and departments he partners with. This spirit motivates and garners commitment to the vision of the university and future. He consistently fosters positive working relationships in every encounter, leaving teams and colleagues ignited to work collaboratively on projects and goals.

Gerik strives to ensure W.S.U. is known in the Higher Education space and within the Workday community. This can be seen with his active involvement with the Higher Education User Group (H.E.U.G.) where he has held a leading role in developing and producing a yearly summit. This summit brings institutions together to collaborate and build a community of external contacts for problem solving and innovation within the higher education space. Gerik and the finance grants team have also been recognized by Workday directly in the fall of 2024 for the work completed on the Grant Forecasting tool. This won the institution the Workday Platform Rockstar Innovation Award bringing positive light to the hard work being completed at W.S.U. to align the system with research needs.

Gerik also encourages his team members to join Workday Design Partner Groups when applicable to the university's needs. These groups foster problem solving and allow W.S.U. to be a part of the conversation in designing Workday functionality to meet the needs of the university. Within the institution's offerings, Gerik routinely creates opportunity for professional growth and motivates team members to pursue enriching projects.

To speak honestly, Gerik is altruistic in nature, shining a light on the efforts of those around him first and foremost. He curates an inclusive environment where individuals feel secure to contribute differing approaches, ideas, and constructs to develop the best solutions for the university. Gerik celebrates the teams' successes often and ensures every member is aware of their lasting impacts of the work performed.

Gerik approaches every challenge with engaged listening and empathy, going above and beyond to understand the challenges and perspectives of every department, every team, and every individual within the institution.

It is this type of leadership, integrity, and commitment that promotes productivity, innovation, positive working relationships and outstanding recognition to Washington State University and why I believe Gerik Kimble is an ideal nominee for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



KELSEY DEMACON

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST LEAD

Modernization

Finance and Administration

Washington State University

Email: Kelsey.harris@wsu.edu

April 2nd, 2025

Dear APAC Contribution Award Selection Committee,

I am honored to nominate Gerik Kimble for the 2025 WSU Administrative Professional Contribution Award. Having known Gerik for most of my career at WSU and worked directly with him for the past five years, I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Gerik exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional Administrative Professional. As a key leader in the Modernization Initiative from its inception, he played a pivotal role in overseeing a financial transformation at the highest level with the implementation of Workday. While many viewed Workday's launch in 2021 as the conclusion of the project, for Gerik, it was just the beginning. Over the past four years, he has continued to champion ongoing business process improvements, collaborating with leadership across the WSU system to identify challenges and implement strategic enhancements. His dedication to refining processes and policies has fundamentally transformed how we conduct business at WSU, consistently challenging norms and seeking more effective solutions.

Beyond his technical and strategic contributions, Gerik is an inspiring leader who elevates those around him. He fosters a culture of positivity, encouraging collaboration and innovation within his team. Under his leadership, I have been part of a uniquely close-knit team that thrives on both camaraderie and problem-solving. His ability to cultivate an engaging and supportive work environment enables us to provide exceptional service to the broader WSU community, amplifying his impact across the university.

Gerik's influence extends beyond WSU. As a respected leader in the higher education sector, he is frequently sought after by peers from other institutions for his insights and expertise. In the true spirit of collaboration, he willingly shares his knowledge and solutions, strengthening WSU's reputation and fostering relationships that benefit our institution. These partnerships have opened doors for WSU to adopt best practices and leverage external expertise when facing our own challenges.

Gerik's presence has profoundly improved financial operations at WSU, and his unwavering commitment to excellence continues to drive meaningful change. His contributions have left a lasting impact on our university, and I have no doubt he will continue to shape its future for the better.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely hope you recognize Gerik's outstanding contributions to WSU with this well-deserved award.

Sincerely,

Kameron Olsen, MBA
Core Finance & Procurement Manager, Modernization
Washington State University

Jason Stucki
Modernization
Washington State University
4/2/25

AP Contribution Award Nomination Committee
Washington State University

Dear Members of the AP Contribution Award Nomination Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Gerik Kimble for the AP Contribution Award. Gerik's exceptional leadership, motivational style, and collaborative spirit have significantly contributed to the success and efficiency of Washington State University (WSU).

As the leader of the Modernization team, Gerik has demonstrated outstanding leadership and motivational skills. He has a unique ability to inspire and guide his team, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. His commitment to WSU is evident in his tireless efforts to improve processes and enhance the overall efficiency of the university.

Gerik's ability to see the big picture and his desire to improve processes for WSU personnel are truly commendable. He launched priority planning for several central areas, focusing on the projects that are most needed to improve efficiency across WSU. This initiative has had a profound impact on the university, streamlining operations and ensuring that resources are allocated effectively.

In addition to his leadership within WSU, Gerik serves on a Higher Education User Group (HEUG) leadership committee. He brings valuable knowledge and insights from this role back to WSU, building strong relationships with other universities and sharing best practices. Gerik is widely recognized as a leader in the Higher Education space for the successful operation of Workday at WSU. His regular collaboration with other university leaders has positioned WSU as a model for effective and efficient operations.

Gerik's ability to partner and collaborate with various WSU departments is another testament to his exceptional skills. He is an excellent collaborator and worked closely with campus partners to rollout a grant forecasting tool available to all departments. His efforts have not only improved processes but also strengthened the sense of community and teamwork within the university.

In summary, Gerik Kimble is an outstanding leader and motivator who has made significant contributions to WSU. His vision, dedication, and collaborative spirit make him an ideal candidate for the AP Contribution Award. I wholeheartedly support his nomination and believe that he is truly deserving of this recognition.

Thank you for considering Gerik Kimble for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,



Jason Stucki
Manager, Reporting and Analytics
Washington State University

Administrative Professional Advisory Council

AP Contribution Award

Washington State University

Dear Administrative Professional Advisory Council Members,

When I read through the criteria for the 2025 Administrative Professional Contribution Award there was one individual who came to mind that personifies productivity, embodies innovative problem solving, and models the power of community service through empathy and thoughtfulness. This individual not only works to position his department as forward thinking changemakers at WSU and establish WSU as leaders in the Higher Ed space, but also strives to empower and lift-up those around him to be successful in everything they do. As such I am pleased to nominate Gerik Kimble, Executive Director for Modernization Finance within Business and Financial Services, for this award.

As Executive Director of Modernization Finance Gerik has overseen the implementation of many solutions that improve productivity for both central units and distributed departments when inefficiencies have been identified. For example:

To help streamline the lengthy award setup process within Workday Gerik encouraged the grants and integrations teams to work together to pursue and develop an award setup integration to streamline the process.

When Faculty requested an easier way to view their financial information, he pulled together the grants, reporting, finance, and payroll teams to develop a dashboard solution that gave them easy access to this information.

In order to give departments visibility into their finances Gerik and his finance and reporting teams have worked with leadership, central units, and stakeholders across the university to deliver easy to use financial reports that can be used as tools to increase efficiency and productivity.

Every time a problem is identified Gerik is there at the forefront, rallying his team together to tackle it head on to ensure that he can deliver on his goal of increasing productivity through innovation and teamwork.

Gerik also works tirelessly to make sure that WSU is seen as an innovator in Workday's Higher Ed space. When Workday announces that new functionality is being built out he encourages his team to join so that WSU has a voice, and works to facilitate our involvement in any way he can. When our grants team had the idea to build a centralized

tool for grants forecasting Gerik jumped into action, engaging with both Workday to see if this had been done before (it hadn't) and Deloitte to see if they would be interested in partnering together to build a first of its kind tool (they were). As a result, Modernization was able to build the Adaptive Grant's Forecasting tool and Gerik was able to accept the 2024 Workday Platform Rockstar Innovation Award. As a result of this recognition WSU is seen as a leader in Workday's Higher Ed community and it has opened other doors for collaboration that would otherwise be closed to us.

While Gerik has made huge contributions to WSU through his strive to increase productivity and continually innovate, what I admire most about him is his capacity for empathy and understanding and the care he shows for his team, both as his employees and as people. Gerik uses his lighthearted attitude and quick wit to build relationships, but works tirelessly to make sure he creates a genuine connection. He identifies our strengths and encourages that we speak up and let them shine, but doesn't shy away from helping to develop areas that we see as weaknesses. He emphasizes that our work needs to get done but makes it abundantly clear that it won't be our best unless we take care of ourselves. He celebrates our successes as both individual and team accomplishments, but never places blame on our shoulders when we make mistakes. Gerik is the embodiment of a good leader and it shows in his teams dedication, productivity, and desire to move WSU forward.

All of this is to say that I believe his desire to increase productivity and efficiency using innovative problem solving and collaboration, along with his passion for both WSU and those that work here makes Gerik Kimble the ideal candidate to receive the 2025 AP Contribution Award. I truly can't think of anyone who deserves this recognition more.

Sincerely,



Ben Howard

Business Systems Analyst Lead - Payroll

Modernization Initiative

Washington State University

Email: benjamin.howard@wsu.edu