

REPORT OF ACTIVITY OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, 2021-2022

The DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

1. History

- established in 1981 by the Faculty Council
- sponsored since 1984 by the estate of John S. Perkins, former faculty member, Trustee, Treasurer

Eligibility

- all associated with the University (Administration, Alumni, Benefactor, Staff, Students, Trustees, etc.)
- exception: members of the faculty

Nomination Dossier

- Nominations consist of the Nomination Form accompanied by **Letters Of Recommendation** (minimum: 3; maximum: 7)

2. Make-up of the 2021-2022 Awards Committee

Membership is consistent with the directive for broad representation across campuses and disciplines:

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden (CAS), Afsheen Lakhani (GSDM), Rebecca Pendelton (Law), Yang Shi (MED), Marnie Reed (WED)

One Committee Member is a past Chair (2020) of the Committee; one members is new to the Committee.

3. Make-up of the 2022 Perkins Nominee Pool

Nominees

14 Nominees, broadly represented across campuses and disciplines:

- BUSM (3), CAS (7), CFA (1), MET (1), Questrom (1), STH (1)
- 89 LORs were submitted, some with multiple signatures
- Years of Service ranged: 7-40 years
- Nomination History Range: 1st-time nominations to multiple nominations

4. The 2022 Perkins Award Slate

Selection Process

- Awards Committee members separately and independently submitted rankings
- Awards Committee Members met (virtually) March 25 to deliberate, and to convey recommendations to FC Director Samantha Khosla

The 2022 Perkins Award Nominees

Francis (Frank) Antonelli, Media Resources Specialist, Geddes Language Center, CAS

35 years of service; 1st-time nominee; received references from multiple work units, totaling 18 signatures

- His work supports several different departments, so much so that he has been called a “community builder”
- He carries numerous responsibilities impacting faculty and student performance; his work has been called “indispensable” and “critical to the success of many projects that enhance teaching and research and enhance the institutions global reputation”.

- He stands out due to the synergy of three traits: expertise in his field that rivals expensive private-sector outside contractors; passion for the work; his “top-grade” professional sense of service
- During the 2020-2021 academic year, Frank was one of only two staff who kept an on-campus presence each week. “Without Frank, there was absolutely no way for our Center to remain open”.
- Frank is described as the “go to” person for programming in innovative pedagogies and technology-assisted learning and in media conversion to and from any format, including legacy media types such as 8-mm film reel, audio cassettes, and VHS tapes.
- Frank’s “undaunting commitment to preserving history as it is uncovered through media content, and to supporting archival enterprises at BU has allowed the research profile of the university to remain robust.”

Nancy Clinton, Administrative Manager, Cardio-Vascular Institute, BUSM

30 years of service; received 5 references; previously nominated in 2019

- Nancy manages grants and administrative duties for 6 Faculty members.
- She is in charge of financial aspects of NIH and Foundation grants and daily administrative tasks including orders, salaries for >50 people between Faculty and researchers at various career stages (graduate students, postdocs, research assistants) and paperwork associated with hiring new employees.
- Nancy “works efficiently (she often sends emails at 5am!) to make sure our laboratories run smoothly, and Faculty have to minimally worry about cumbersome administrative aspects of our research jobs, and we meet crucial deadline”

Praise:

- Met two ongoing significant challenges: She continues to gracefully handle all administrative aspects of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) in absence of a permanent CVI director (for over 3 years now), and with two different interim directors and leadership styles; During an ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Nancy taken upon herself tasks beyond her job description, whether making sure that lab supplies arrive on time or helping junior faculty identify solutions with child care, among many examples. Nancy Clinton’s distinguished service has been recognized by our medical school faculty and the Dean, Dr. Karen Antman, as she was named the September 2021 Distinguished Staff of the month.
- She successfully managed the day-to-day research efforts of more than 50 investigators, many with multimillion dollars complex portfolios. In so doing, she nurtured productive relationships with all BU central departments, including Human Resources, ISSO, Student Payroll, OSP, PAFO, Facilities, and Sourcing, enabling the Whitaker and its investigators’ laboratories to run smoothly and efficiently.
- Her knowledge and skills have been invaluable. She is uniquely qualified with administrative management of NIH-funded T32 training programs, having managed both a 15-year pre-doctoral grant of mine, as well as a postdoctoral T32 that has been with the Institute for 41 years (led by another PI)
- “What sets Nancy apart is her notable administrative skills applied with grace and devotion, whether at times of calm or pressure, with the goal of helping investigators in fulfilling their missions. Further, Nancy has generously shared her knowledge with the Department of Medicine, the Medical School and the University at large. She has served on many committees aimed at facilitating research throughout the University. Some of her more prominent committee work includes the Department of Medicine Administrators Group, Simplified Approach to Research Administration Taskforce (BUSM), BUSM

Research Administrators Group, BUWorks Power Users (BU), Kuali Coeus Proposal Development Blueprinting (BU), Administrative Advisory Committee, (DOM), Research Advisory Committee (DOM), Postdoc Advisory Committee, (BUSM), and most recently the Advisory Council for Research Administration.”

- “Nancy is exemplary. Her work and skills are multifaceted. For many decades, the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute and our laboratories couldn’t run as smoothly and successfully without her devoted care and service.”

Cynthia Bradford, Proposal Development Specialist, Biology Department, CAS

40 years of service; received 11 references; 2020 Nominee

- She has been at BU in **several roles since 1982**, according to her nominators, Asst’ Director, Center for Adaptive Systems; Admin. Director Center for Excellence of Learning in Education, Science, & Technology, Assoc Director at the Center for Computational Neuroscience and Neural Technology. current: Dept of Biology

Praise:

- “Cindy serves the interests of BU with great distinction and enthusiasm” through her assistance with grants proposals, identifying new sources of funding, and helping navigate research compliance requirements. She is also known for her “professional effectiveness with a strikingly kind and generous personality.” When describing her support with grant work, Thomas Gilmore called her” as a colleague, rather than an administrator.”
- “Rarely have I been so moved by someone with such complete dedication and unparalleled depth of knowledge in their role, as shown by Cindy in assisting faculty, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students to advance BU's education and research missions.”
- “To put it simply, I know that my proposals are in good hands. When I have discussed Cindy’s efforts in grant submissions with colleagues from other top universities, they are jealous of her hard work and dedication to the position and often express how much they wish they had a Cindy of their own! Cindy is undoubtedly one of the reasons why our department has been so successful in securing funding. “
- “She really does go above and beyond expectations.”

Respectfully submitted,
Marnie Reed
Clinical Professor of Education
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