March 31, 2021

Dear Members of the WSU APAC Committee:

I am honored to nominate Eric Rogers for the WSU Administrative Professional Advisory Council’s 2021 Administrative Professional Contribution Award.

This award recognizes exceptional, above and beyond contributions made by employees to productivity, problem solving, positive working relationships and university service.

Faculty and staff rely on a wide variety of goods, equipment and services to fulfill WSU’s instruction, research and service mission. Hundreds of millions are spent each year on these critical items. Yet at times, it can be incredibly complex to acquire needed goods and services while ensuring that the department and WSU meet federal, state and local regulations. Creative and positive thinkers are required.

Eric demonstrates such creativeness and positivity each day. He consistently builds positive working relationships, works tirelessly to solve problems and help all departments and campuses achieve their desired goals. He encourages and supports his team to stay positive and put customer service first, even in the face of a seemingly unlimited number of requests. He actively pursues opportunities to streamline and improve processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the services his office provides.

Eric’s ability to understand the needs of faculty and staff has enabled him to build positive working relationships system wide. He works tirelessly to help departments accomplish their goals while also keeping WSU compliant with a complex set of state procurement rules. He is determined in his pursuit of getting to “yes” for constituents at all campuses, even when the needed outcome seems impossible.

I would like to share two examples that illustrate Eric’s above and beyond contribution. These examples are the norm rather than the exception when working with Eric. He approaches meeting the needs of academic departments with the same positive, dedicated, can-do attitude no matter how big or small the need.

With the growth of international research and Global Animal Health (GAH) operations in Tanzania, WSU entered into uncharted territory in many ways from hiring employees, contracting for services and shipping goods overseas. Eric engaged with GAH to help them deploy several important federal grants in Tanzania, while helping WSU navigate Tanzania laws and local business customs to finalize needed service contracts.

Later, with the breakout of the Covid-19 Pandemic in early 2020, GAH needed to export critical health protection equipment from the U.S. to Tanzania to help meet the demands of the grants. However, exporting protection equipment was strictly prohibited, even though the Federal grant required it. Eric
engaged with faculty and department staff to find a solution in a seemingly impossible situation. After countless hours of work, research, contacting Federal agencies and negotiation, Eric finalized a plan for GAH to legally and appropriately export the needed supplies to Tanzania to meet the grant requirements. While this was occurring, Eric was actively helping WSU gather critical stock of medical supplies for the emerging pandemic.

Eric has taken on these complex international needs, in addition to his work to ensure that local needs of departments are met, while also coaching and building his team, and actively leading the deployment of Workday procurement processes.

Eric demonstrates consistent integrity. Faculty and staff trust his judgement, and because of his tireless effort to meet their needs, respect and follow his recommendations on the best way to proceed with complex procurements or contracts.

As I interact with faculty, staff and administration there is a consistent theme: “we love working with Eric Rogers. He never stops trying to help us and we trust that he will keep us legal and safe in the work we pursue.” I am grateful for the positive working relationships that Eric has built across all campuses and departments. His efforts and positivity are infectious to all who interact with him.

WSU is fortunate to have countless dedicated, administrative professional employees that support WSU’s instruction, research and service mission each day. It must be energizing for the Committee to review the nominations of so many outstanding administrative professional employees. Thank you for your time and effort in this regard.

I hope that the Committee will join in recognizing Eric for his consistently exceptional, above and beyond efforts.

Sincerely,

Matthew A Skinner
Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration
TO: Administrative Professional Advisory Council
FROM: Stacy M. Pearson,
CFO and Vice President for Finance & Administration
DATE: March 30, 2021
SUBJECT: WSU Administrative Professional Advisory Council's (APAC) 2021 Administrative Professional (AP) Contribution Award

People have always described Eric to me as an innovative and creative problem solver since my arrival at WSU. I receive unsolicited compliments on his work and leaders describe him as willing to go the extra mile to find a solution. He is always professional and works hard to support his staff amidst all the workload demands from across the campuses. Eric has a deep understanding of the rules and processes, so we are very confident that when he recommends a solution that it has been well thought through. For example, there were particular challenges with procurement for our GAHT teams working in Africa and Eric was able to work through a solution. I have worked with him on a few of those “first time we have ever done this” projects and he truly goes the extra mile to provide a path forward.

As we have worked through how we can improve and streamline procurement processes using Workday, Eric has been very enthusiastic about the potential to provide a better experience for University customers and more timely feedback on their procurement requests. He is invaluable to this project since he understands the current processes very well and has envisioned the future state that this system enables.

One of the more recent challenges related to developing a contract for COVID testing with very little direction and an entirely new protocol. Eric worked through the contracting and procurement challenges with our contracts staff and AG to meet difficult deadlines.

Eric cares deeply about his staff and the people that he serves at the University. On more than a few occasions he has brought complex and time sensitive information to me for review and approval. He takes the time to ensure that I understand the complexities, the risks and his recommendation and provides what is needed for us to have confidence in the decision. We have had situations that we have had to try different approaches, and he always stays with the project until we find a path forward.

WSU is very lucky to have such a talented Director for Purchasing Services. He has served the University in a selfless and professional manner and many faculty and staff
across the University have benefitted from his leadership and services. He is very deserving of this award and his nomination is supported by many.
March 30, 2021

Administrative Professional Advisory Council
APAC 2021 Administrative Professional Contribution Award Committee
RE: Eric Roger Nomination

Dear Awards Committee,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to support the nomination of Eric Rogers for the APAC Administrative Professional Contribution Award.

I have had the good fortune of working with Eric for many years, and in multiple capacities, and know the value he adds to any transaction. He is a true professional, a top-notch problem solver, and a dedicated partner in helping his customers achieve their goals. His dedication and expertise was so very well illustrated over the past year as Eric served on the COVID-19 Incident Command Team as the Logistics Section Chief, charged with procuring and distributing personal protective equipment and other supplies that were critical to the University’s response to the pandemic. Many of us will remember how difficult it was to find certain supplies for our own homes, and imagine facing that same challenge for an entity the size of WSU! I know that Eric worked long, hard days to help ensure the safety of our students and staff, lending a steady hand at a time that many were struggling. Having the challenge of managing logistics during a pandemic would test anyone, especially during a time when he was also deeply involved in the Modernization project and the transition to Workday! Eric faced those challenges with his signature positive attitude, incredible patience, and passion for the profession – a passion that is so clearly evident in every challenge he tackles.

Thank you for considering Eric Rogers for this prestigious award. There are so many deserving and dedicated AP staff at WSU, and Eric clearly is among the very best. I know I speak for many when I say that we are fortunate to have such an outstanding colleague – truly someone we should all aspire to be like! His steady commitment and passion for his work is remarkable, and he genuinely exemplifies what it means to be an Administrative Professional at WSU.

Sincerely,

Victoria Murray, Executive Director
Finance and Administration
Dear Members of the WSU APAC Committee:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to support the nomination of Eric Rogers for the WSU Administrative Professional Advisory Council’s 2021 Administrative Professional Contribution Award. This award recognizes those outstanding contributions made by an employee regarding productivity of the unit, innovative problem solving, positive working relations, and university service. Eric is the epitome of an employee who goes above and beyond to “solve the unsolvable” through innovation, persistence, and excellent communication. WSU’s sponsored research in Kenya is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. This requires that procurement needs to meet agency requirements, WSU standards and practices, and the laws and regulation of the Republic of Kenya. Eric communicates effectively across the 11 hours time zone difference to ensure that WSU meets all these standards while ensuring that procurement is timely and cost effective. He has guided our resident staff in Kenya and Tanzania in procurement and his expertise is deeply valued by our staff.

A major challenge brought on by the current Covid-19 pandemic illustrates his incredible value to WSU and to CDC. As the pandemic unfolded, the supply chains for personal protective equipment (PPE) became constrained and, increasingly, nationalized. The U.S. government placed a prohibition on shipment of PPE out of the country, a blanket prohibition that jeopardized the health of CDC and WSU personnel working in Kenya. Many individuals would have accepted the regulation as the end of the effort. However, Eric did not—he worked assiduously to not only identify availability but also to “unlock” the restriction on its procurement for subsequent international shipment. This was not a simple email or phone call but a weeks long effort to find a way; never accepting “it’s not possible”. In the end, he succeeded, protecting WSU and CDC personnel and allowing them to safely begin to address the rapidly spreading pandemic. His impact does not end there—when CDC needed to deploy new funding to address the pandemic in east Africa, they insisted WSU accept funding, without application, as they were confident that WSU, based on their experience with the PPE challenge, could deliver. Internally, we know that it was Eric Rogers who made it happen.

WSU is fortunate to have outstanding, dedicated administrative professionals. Eric Rogers epitomizes the best of these critical team members and of the WSU community and merits recognition with the WSU APAC Administrative Professional Contribution Award.

With best regards,

Guy H. Palmer
Regents Professor of Pathology and Infectious Diseases

Global Health at Washington State University: Improving Public Health and Catalyzing Human Opportunity
PO Box 647090, Pullman, WA 99164-7090
Fax: 509-335-6328  www.globalhealth.wsu.edu
Matt,

Please accept this endorsement in support of Eric Rogers for the 2021 Administrative Professional Contribution Award.

Eric exemplifies good customer service, going above and beyond, and seeking to understand others.

While Eric understands the importance of leading the purchasing team as it relates to our needs in CAHNRS for Academic Programs, Extension, and Research, what I appreciate most is his valuing people and prioritizing effective working relationships.

Sincerely,

Chris