



**Nominator Name:** Aaron Salasek

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**Nominee Name:** Libby Fahrenkamp

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**Reasons:** To the Review Committee;

I am happy to nominate Libby Fahrenkamp for the staff member of the year award. Libby is one of the major instruments of social change and justice on our campus, and a staff member whom I aspire to mimic in terms of servant-leadership. I have collaborated with Libby for little under two years, and I know few individuals who can accomplish as many major programmatic changes and process revisions – and of such high quality! – as she has. Libby is an excellent nominee for many reasons, but in my opinion, primary among them are the following: her selflessness with regard to helping others, as well as the social justice lens and equity she bears witness to

Libby embodies a true servant-leader, and this plays out daily – both professionally and interpersonally – regardless of whom she is helping or what she is set on accomplishing. Terms like “selfless” and “altruistic” readily come to mind as I reflect on Libby’s career in higher education access. Libby is exactly the type of co-worker ones wants on their team: when given a task, Libby goes above and beyond to transform that task into a programmatic success worthy of replicating. She is an absolutely affirming team member, and one cannot help but feel they are on an “extraordinary team” with her involved when brainstorming, planning, and implementing a program. Whether it's taking the lead on a marketing brainstorming meeting, or tackling challenging ethical quandaries within the profession, she does so with enthusiasm.

Much of Libby’s advocacy for students – and in particular, students often likely to be marginalized regarding postsecondary access – could stem from the fact that she is a first-generation college student herself. She knows what it takes to navigate a cumbersome system, a system that needs “institutional code translators”. She is a tireless advocate, one to whom students turn to time and again because they know she is in their corner. She weaves herself into student narratives because she’s exactly the type of character students want to be a part of their life’s story. Learned optimism is a way of being and a state of mind, and it’s clear through her meeting with students, community partners, and her fellow peers alike that Libby has mastered this demeanor. Perhaps also resulting from her own lived and professional experiences, the equity lens Libby brings to any conversation around social justice is both refreshing and energizing. As a staunch advocate for equity in higher education access, I know that I will be both challenged to grow and supported by Libby when discussing complex issues centered on morals, values, and justice. The perspective that Libby brings keeps the focus in line with the mission and vision of our institution and its commitment to educating for access.

I’m happy to elaborate on Libby’s many accomplishments and amazing character at any time, and again, am glad to nominate her for this award. The above is a brief testament to her abilities and professionalism

in being an effective agent of social change and leading on our campus, assets she will undoubtedly carry throughout her professional career.