

## Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Jennifer Anderson**  
*School of Nursing-Student Affairs & Diversity*

### **Michael R. Bleich, from the School of Nursing, submitted the following nomination...**

To borrow a phrase from a great man, “I had a dream”, a dream for the School of Nursing Centennial Celebration that would include events throughout the year with the culmination at a Gala where our faculty, staff, students and alumni would come together with the university-at-large and statewide leaders in significant numbers to celebrate this amazing achievement and make a real impact to recognize nursing. That dream became a reality due, in part, to one individual, Jennifer Anderson.

Despite the fact that she has a full-time position as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs & Diversity at the School of Nursing and that she started an EdD program at PSU this past Fall, Jennifer took on the daunting task of taking my vision and making it a reality.

To say that she was tireless would be an understatement. Jennifer has a true ability to see the larger picture and break that down into the smaller operational details, ensuring that those ideas come to fruition. What I admire the most about Jennifer’s abilities is how she can work with so many key stakeholders, delegating tasks, providing support and managing so many moving targets.

She listened to my “bigger-than-life” plans, interjected reality when needed, and in many ways, moved mountains to make these events high-impact and meaningful to not only the School and OHSU, but also the communities in Oregon that we support.

A series of events of this magnitude has never been attempted by the School or, most likely OHSU. We had visits from national leaders culminating with Donna Shalala, nationally renowned politician, humanitarian, and academic leader. No detail in the planning and execution stages of our very full schedule went untended from the print materials to the complex scheduling or even to contacting each of our alumni by telephone to ensure that they were invited to the event.

Jennifer intrinsically understood that it would take a village to help in the planning and execution of the Centennial schedule, but most especially with the Gala and Alumni-centered Open House. She carefully selected that village and was a fearless leader, embracing last minutes changes and additions to develop a diverse and rich schedule of events that would appeal to everyone.

This event became so much greater than the school and Jennifer was able to pull in so many faculty, staff and students and infuse them with a sense of ownership and togetherness as we all worked towards the greater good. Not only did we receive high attendance from our Portland community, Jennifer also worked with our regional campuses to ensure that we had faculty, staff and students from across the state not only participating in the Gala events, but also offering sessions to represent their unique areas and interests

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As the Dean of this amazing school, I was humbled and honored to be part of this historical event and when I stood at the podium during our seminal Gala event to introduce Barbara Smith-Conrad, words could not express my gratitude for the work that Jennifer and all of those who worked with her to make this event happen. Our centennial would not have been the same without Jennifer's leadership and I believe she exemplifies that true spirit of the golden rose award.

If the Golden ROSE Award is about going above and beyond and building community around the missions of OHSU, then Jennifer Anderson gets my vote as having achieved just that.