



Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence

CRYSTAL PAREDES — ADMINSTRATOR COORDINATOR, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Crystal Paredes is deserving of a Golden ROSE award for truly redefining how our graduate programs review incoming student application information. In the past, this involved faculty and administrators processing and reviewing information through a combination of files hosted on the X: drive, email reminders about updated information or program meetings, and hand written notes being interpreted and then re-written in various Word or Excel files.

On her own accord, Crystal took it upon herself to embrace the potential of OHSU's new Bridge software to bring order to the process. With the help and guidance of Steve Engelke from the SOM Dean's Office (who is also deserving of the award) and a year of development, she has created what is now an almost fully automated admissions portal. All relevant material needed for admissions review is added directly into one system where only faculty who need to review that specific file has access. That reviewer can then fill out an evaluation form, which is added to a larger matrix used by the Admissions Committee to decide who to invite. When interview rounds are completed, applicant reviews are then entered into the same system where the committee can then further narrow down who to offer admission. Every step from the student applying for admission all the way to being offered is now in one place for the first time ever.

Not only has this significantly increased the efficiency of how this process works, but it is easier to use, track, and ultimately saves the entire process countless hours of time and energy. Other graduate programs are now adopting the same system to streamline their own admissions. Without Crystal's initiative and creativity, we would still be doing things the old, less efficient, and more time consuming way.

Submitted by Richard Goranflo III, SOM, Office of Graduate Studies