



2/13/24

Dear Selection Committee,

I am delighted to recommend Heather Allstrom for the **Graduate Emory Student Employee of the Year (SEOTY)**. Heather is a current Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student at Emory University's School of Nursing (SON). Heather has held multiple student employee positions, including simultaneously serving as a Graduate Teaching Fellow (GTF) for the SON and as a Graduate Assistant for the SON's Lillian Carter Center for Global Health.

I have had the pleasure of working with Heather for several years, teaching her at both the pre-licensure and post-licensure levels of her education. She has served as a Graduate Teaching Fellow, supporting multiple courses of mine, and we are currently collaborating on developing an education-based model related to Climate Change and healthcare professionals.

Heather's exceptional academic work ethic and success led to her selection as a Graduate Teaching Fellow, where she provides invaluable support to students within the program, particularly those facing academic challenges. She has demonstrated exceptional skills in identifying and addressing social determinants related to students' needs, such as financial, housing, or food insecurities. Moreover, Heather serves as a mentor to tutors and other GTFs, offering valuable guidance and support.

In addition to her role as a GTF, Heather serves as a federal work study student for the School of Nursing's Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility. She has made significant contributions to the center's initiatives, including coordinating healthcare services for migrant farmworkers and their families during an immersion trip to Moultrie, Georgia. Heather's leadership and dedication were instrumental in the success of the program, which served over 900 patients with the help of 200 volunteers.

Heather is deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, both within the SON and in the broader community. She actively contributes to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Community and Diversity Subcommittee, helping to organize community events and providing student perspectives within the program. Her degree concentration in Women's Health/Gender Related studies informs her project on the intersection of Climate Change, Pharmaceuticals, and Providers in Women's Health, as well as her support for faculty in developing a novel Climate Change model for healthcare education curricula.



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Heather embodies the qualities of a Graduate Student of the Year, earning the respect and admiration of her peers, faculty, staff, and colleagues from other universities. Her professionalism, mentorship, leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills have left a lasting impact on all who have had the privilege of working with her. Her contributions to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Global Health & Social Responsibility, and her research in Climate Change and Women's Health reflect her dedication to serving as a beacon of support for all.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mueller, PharmD, BCPS

Kenneth Mueller, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Clinical Professor
he/him
First Generation College Graduate
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
Emory University

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to highly recommend Heather Allstrom for the student employee award based on the outlined criteria: Diversity and Inclusion, Impact, Professionalism, Effective Communication & Interpersonal Skills, and Leadership.

Diversity and Inclusion: Heather's commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident in her various roles and engagements. She demonstrates empathy, compassion, and respect for the unique contributions of her colleagues. Her involvement in community outreach, alternative breaks, and service-learning immersion reflects a deep commitment to fostering inclusivity. For example, Heather was the teaching assistant for the Farm Worker Family Program where she had to work with diverse stakeholders and community partners in a demanding and sometimes unpredictable environment. Heather demonstrated leadership and patience in working with all participants whether students or faculty, hotel, school or clinic staff, or migrant farm workers and their children. She demonstrated empathy for the students under stress and compassion for migrant farm workers and families. When threatened by a tornado, Heather led all students to safe shelter.

Impact: Heather has not only suggested but actively implemented ideas that have had a positive, tangible impact on the department. Her work on the Mueller Climate Change Model, research projects, and community health initiatives, such as the Fuld Fellowship Research Project, exemplify her ability to bring about positive change. Heather is a unique student worker that not only follows directions but brings a unique view and quality of work that results in positive impacts.

Professionalism, Effective Communication & Interpersonal Skills: Heather excels in collaborating with peers, managers, and stakeholders. Her roles as a Clinical Instructor, Service-Learning Immersion Leader, and Graduate Teaching Fellow highlight her effective communication and interpersonal skills. She addresses problems constructively and employs appropriate methods of persuasion, contributing positively to the work environment. As an example, and mentioned above, Heather's work for the Farm Worker program was remarkable. Under the best conditions working with students and faculty from 5 different schools can be stressful with numerous opportunities for communication failure. Add to this the severe weather conditions of extreme heat and, on more than a few nights, threats of lightening, flooding, and tornado warnings, it was apparent that Heather's unflappable and professional demeanor, was not simply constructive but potentially lifesaving.

Leadership: Heather's leadership qualities are commendable. Her passion for mentorship and training, as evidenced by her roles as a Teaching Assistant, Graduate Teaching Fellow, and Service-Learning Immersion Leader, highlights her dedication to fostering the growth of her peers. As an agent of change, she actively supports the implementation of innovative ideas.

Heather's educational background, professional memberships, work experience, and research and publications further attest to her exceptional qualifications. Her diverse experiences, including clinical instruction, research projects, and community engagement, have provided her with a well-rounded skill set.

In conclusion, Heather Allstrom is an exemplary candidate for the student employee award. Her academic achievements, professional experiences, and commitment to diversity and inclusion, impact, professionalism, effective communication, and leadership make her a standout candidate.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Modly, Elizabeth Downes, Lisa Nunez, Tricia Benson
Emory University
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility