



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Selection Committee members for Faculty and Staff Advising Award:

Recommendation for Holly Harris, Staff Advisor

For the past 10 plus years Ms. Harris has been a Staff Advisor for the graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Specifically, Ms. Harris has served as the Advisor for the distance education format of this 60-semester unit graduate program. The program attracts students from throughout the 50 States, the US Territories and international locations. All students are working professionals and must balance both a work and academic schedule. These students are considered non-traditional learners. Further some students have disabling conditions (i.e., blindness, deafness, orthopedic disabilities, etc.) that require technological accommodations. The graduate course of study, which is 100% delivered by distance using multiple learning modalities, is typically in a cohort model across 36 months and includes clinical work during the degree program.

Ms. Harris is an ideal advisor for this degree program. She is a graduate of SDSU's MS in Rehabilitation Counseling. She has experience in human services and rehabilitation and is legally blind. As a result of her acquired blindness she is knowledgeable of the need for and the availability of accessibility technology.

Ms. Harris is very responsive to the needs of the students. Because students are from so many different locations, she must manage the various time differences. She also must be knowledgeable about their work sites and work with them to establish clinical sites and experiences. Her knowledge of the program, the understanding of the curriculum requirements and especially the unique circumstances of each student are just exceptional. You can ask Holly about the status of student, their clinical setting(s) and even professional and personal information, and she responds with in depth knowledge. Finally, if a student is struggling either academically or personally, Holly uses her extensive skills to assist them and, if necessary consults with faculty members and others to achieve a positive solution.

The feedback from students is uniformly positive. Students speak of her accessibility, her knowledge, and the thoroughness and timeliness of her responses. The only time students typically come to SDSU is for graduation. We have had a number of graduates come because they want to meet and thank Holly for her support during the degree program.

Ms. Harris is an ideal Advisor. She has the temperament and maturity to work with the graduate students. Her professional and personal knowledge, as a subject matter expert and Advisor is excellent. She is the ideal role model for non-traditional graduate students who are distance learners. Ms. Harris is highly qualified for this award!

Sincerely yours,



Fred R. McFarlane, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

Department of Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education/Interwork Institute