

February 19, 2021

We, the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research (R.M.A.I.R.) strongly and unanimously support the nomination of Dawn Kenney for the A.I.R. Outstanding Service Award. Dawn has been a vital member of our organization for the past 14 years, and has been the only person to serve as our president twice. Dawn has been an excellent ambassador from A.I.R. to our organization, by the many positions she has served in for both A.I.R. and R.M.A.I.R. Furthermore, Dawn has willingly shared her expertise and mentored members in how to be successful Institutional Researchers. Dawn has also been a champion for women within the field of Institutional Research.

During her career Dawn has consistently gone out of her way to serve our profession with expertise, experience, and class. We can think of no one more deserving of this award than Dawn Kenney.

Regards,

Lisa Smith, Northwest College, Past President
Vicky Morris-Dueer, University of Dallas, President
Dawn Ressel, University of Montana, Vice President
Angela Ward, Utah Valley University, Secretary
Quinn Koller, Utah Valley University, Treasurer

Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, PLANNING,
& ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

February 19, 2021

Outstanding Service Award Committee
Association for Institutional Research
1435 Piedmont Drive East, Suite 211
Tallahassee, FL 32308

RE: Support for Nomination of Dawn Kenney for Outstanding Service Award

Dear Colleagues:

As a member of the Association for Institutional Research, it is an honor to support the nomination of Dawn Kenney, Director of Institutional Research at Central New Mexico Community College, for the AIR Outstanding Service Award. It has been my privilege to work with Ms. Kenney in AIR and the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research since 2012. I know Ms. Kenney to be an outstanding institutional researcher and a respected leader in the field.

Ms. Kenney's service to the field of institutional research is exceptional. She has served in a wide range of roles in AIR, including terms on the AIR Board of Directors (2013 – 2016) and the AIR Nominations and Elections Committee (2010 and 2018 – 2019) as well as a long-serving instructor in the AIR Data and Decisions Academy. She has also served as president of RMAIR twice and has held leadership roles in the New Mexico Association for Institutional Research and Planning and the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association. Her leadership in these roles has been a valuable contribution to the institutional research profession. I especially appreciate her invaluable mentorship during my term as RMAIR president and as I took on the Role of Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Utah Valley University, which is one of the most important roles of groups such as AIR.

Ms. Kenney is also a regular contributor to conferences in the profession, including the AIR Forum. She is a skilled author, analyst, and presenter. I had the pleasure of co-authoring an article modeling the fiscal effects of alternative tuition structures, a project to which her skills in economics and quantitative data analysis were essential. That article was presented at the RMAIR annual conference and eventually published in *Institutional Research Initiatives in Higher Education* (New York: Routledge, 2017). We have continued to collaborate as our institutions have pursued data warehousing and analysis systems to support dashboarding, early warning, student assessment.

Because of her service to AIR, to other organizations, and to many institutional researchers around the country, Dawn Kenney is one of the most valued members of our profession. I support her nomination for this award enthusiastically and without reservation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Alan Johnson, Ph.D.
Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Accreditation Support
Member, Association for Institutional Research, 2011-2021



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE

February 19, 2021

It is with great honor that I nominate Dawn Kenney for the A.I.R. Outstanding Service Award. Dawn has been a member of A.I.R. for 24 years, under during that time she has served A.I.R. in numerous roles including serving on the Board of Directors, Institute Curriculum Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee, Evaluation Committee, Track Chair, Associate Track Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Presenter, and Conference Coordinator. Dawn has also served in several key positions for the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research (RMAIR) and holds the distinction of being the only member of RMAIR to serve as president twice.

During her career Dawn has consistently gone out of her way to serve our profession with expertise, experience, and class. I can think of no one more deserving of this award then Dawn Kenney.

Regards,

Quinn Koller
Director, Academic Quality Assurance and A.I.R. Member
Utah Valley University

Dawn Kenney, M.A.

Higher Education/Data Officer/Institutional Research/Data Analysis

Twenty-eight years of institutional research, economic research, data analysis, and strategic planning that helped create efficiencies in more effective information availability, reporting, and data analysis helping the college make more informed decisions faster and easier.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Analyst, Institutional Research and Assessment CNM, Albuquerque NM, 2017–present

Flattening of organization title change. No change in duties from Associate Director of Institutional Research except the addition of some assessment

- Led the set-up and implementation of AIS, the new student assessment reporting software. Software and platform discontinued due to vendor issues.
- Institutional Review Board administrator. Working towards consistent research policy and procedures for the Institution.
- Involved with data governance and data integrity
- Role Based Access Team Leader – team charged with assigning access roles to all employees at the Institution. This was done from the ground up.
- Always trying to find better ways to have consistent and accurate data for use in the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and around the college.

Associate Director of Institutional Research CNM, Albuquerque NM, 2015–2017

Served as lead data person for initiatives helping identify sources and developing strategies to obtain needed information. Led teams and initiatives that improve college performance and assisting in improving structures that support institutional research. Helped maintain data integrity for the College. Responsible for assisting in leading research initiatives focusing on improving identified college performance metrics.

- Talented at conceptualizing data needed and implementing projects for use in analysis.
- Frequently asked to design data reports or dashboards.

Online Course Mentor for Data and Decisions Academy Foundations of Data Management and Longitudinal Data Tracking Courses

Association for Institutional Research, Tallahassee, FL, 2010–2019

Answer course-specific questions and provide feedback to institutional researchers all around the world. Students complete courses through the National Association for Institutional Research learning portal.

Skills

Employee Management, Training and Development

Long Term and Strategic Planning

Data Analysis & Project Management

Presentations and Publications

Banner, O365, & Reporting Tools including Power BI

SAS Enterprise Guide and SAS Visual Analytics

Explaining technical concepts in layman terms

Able to work independently or with a team

Able to work with diverse populations

Able to work with minimal direction

Highlights

Converted individual term data tables to relational tables for more effective analysis

Support in the collection and analysis of data that drives decision-making about college performance

Working with Banner ERP for past 24 years including student, financial aid, payroll, and human resources modules

Managed and trained 6 employees over an 8-year period. Still helping to train others in office.

Co-author on a chapter in recently published book (2017) *Research Initiatives in Higher Education*. Chapter called *Estimated Effects of "Pay it Forward" Tuition Plan in the RMAIR Region*.

Team Leader – Role Based Access Team

Team Leader – Information and Analysis Team which created and maintained institutional Key Performance Indicators

Represent Planning and Institutional Effectiveness on various groups around the college and in New Mexico

- All mentors are full-time institutional research professional nominated by their peers to the position.
- Courses provide self-paced professional development for early career professionals in higher education who collect, analyze, or communicate data and information in support of institutional effectiveness to obtain a broader knowledge base of institutional research competencies.

Director of Institutional Research

CNM, Albuquerque NM, 2007–2015

Managed Institutional Research staff and work for planning and decision making. Institutional Research is responsible for official data reporting – both internal and external including mandatory federal and state reporting.

- Led the initial development of CNM dashboards and easy to understand graphical information as well as web data to assist college personnel with access to information to support effective decision making – information at their fingertips.
- Supervised and trained multiple employees and some work-study students.
- Created the methodology used for program graduation targets.

Senior Research Analyst

CNM, Albuquerque, NM, 1998–2007

Identified, collected, analyzed, and reported statistical information for institutional planning and enrollment management.

- Analyzed a gap in data reporting and developed a change to support better more efficient data reporting capabilities by consolidating term data files into relational data tables providing the ability for more timely reporting, trend analysis, and information. These are the data tables used on a regular basis for internal reporting and dashboards.
- Responsible for yearly Fact Book, National Student Clearinghouse, NM Higher Education Department required submissions, New Mexico Accountability in Government Act performance measures, Perkins grant performance measures, as well as all yearly federally required IPEDS submissions.
- Led and coordinated implementation of National Student Clearinghouse.

Research Analyst

CNM, Albuquerque, NM, 1995–1998

Analyzed and reported information for effective decision making

- Assisted in defining Institutional Research functions for newly created office.

Graduate Research Assistant

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Albuquerque, NM, 1991–1995

Provided economic and econometric data research and analysis

Former member of New Mexico Higher Education Department Technical Advisory Group for state database

Institutional Review Board administrator for the past 10 years

Multiple presentations at conferences – both national and local

Consulting job for statistical analysis which included explaining technical statistical information into layman terms for lawyers presenting in court case

CNM representative for the Center for Education Policy Research for 3 years

Effective at prioritizing work and meeting deadlines

Leadership and Service

IPEDS Technical Review Panel on Distance Education, June 2017 – by invitation only

IPEDS Technical Review Panel on Gender, October 2016 – by invitation only

National Association for Institutional Research since 1997 - Board of Directors, Institute Curriculum Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee, Evaluation Committee, Track Chair, Associate Track Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Presenter, and Conference Coordinator

Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research since 2007 – President, Past-President, Vice President, Conference Chair, Developed and Taught Workshop, Presenter. The only person to have been elected twice for President.

New Mexico Association for Institutional Research and Planning since 2002 – President, Past President, Vice President, Conference Coordinator, Presenter

New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association – President, Past President, Vice President, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Presenter

Led or served on various CNM College teams.

Education

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Master of Arts – Mathematics (1996)

Master of Arts – Economics (1993)

Bachelor of Arts – Economics (1990)

- Wrote introductory article for the 1995 New Mexico Rural Economic Development Abstract.
 - Worked on research projects commission by the Legislative Finance Committee.
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