Nomination for Donn D’Alessio Award

Nominee: Megan Zuelsdorff

I am writing this letter to nominate Megan Zuelsdorff for the Donn D’Alessio Student Award. Megan is currently completing her second and final year of the master’s program and I have interacted with her over the past two years in many capacities. Her master’s thesis project explores the relationship between social activity and cognitive function in participants from the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer’s Prevention (WRAP). She also has been an outstanding student in the program’s courses.

Megan has exhibited excellent citizenship as a member of the Department’s student, faculty, and academic community and she has been actively involved in student affairs and the MS/PhD Population Health Student Organization (for which she currently is serving co-president). She was a member of the student panel for Welcome Day in 2009 and 2010. Megan was a co-organizer of the Department of Population Health Sciences 2009 Graduate Luncheon. She helped with the Population Health Sciences 50th Anniversary Symposium in 2009 by designing a key poster that was displayed in the atrium, helping us set up the atrium the night before the symposium, as well as other miscellaneous tasks. Megan was the co-organizer of the 2010 Population Health Sciences Annual Poster Session. She is also the student representative for the Population Health Sciences Departmental Meetings for the 2009-2010 academic year. Megan’s role in all of these activities has displayed her professionalism, team-spirit, conscientiousness, reliability, maturity, and thoughtfulness.

Megan is an excellent student and budding researcher. She has demonstrated her research potential during her master’s thesis work, where she has shown impressive progress in a short period of time. She has been accepted to the Population Health Ph.D. Program, where she will extend her research over the next several years. She is intelligent and hard-working, with profound critical thinking and verbal and written communication skills. She is generous with her time and extremely collaborative. She assists other students in editing their written documents and offers encouragement to students when needed.

In conclusion, I whole-heartedly nominate Megan Zuelsdorff for the Donn D’Alessio Student Award and believe that she would represent the award exceptionally well.