

Summary Presentation:

Introduction:

It is with enthusiasm that I write this summary presentation in strong support of Logan Rath as this year's recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. I have known Logan since the beginning of the 2008 Fall semester when we began collaborating together in an effort to help strengthen the awareness of library resources available to students pursuing their teacher certification in our Childhood Inclusive Program.

Having never collaborated with anyone at the library up until that point I did not know what to expect from the instruction my students and I would receive, but it did not take long listening to Logan for all of us to sit up and take notice. I had sent an e-mail communication prior to coming into the library that detailed the goals and objectives I was hoping to meet and was very impressed that Logan not only worked towards meeting those objectives, but really went above and beyond my expectations. I feel this speaks to two important characteristics Logan possesses. The first being an ability to listen to the concerns and perspectives of the professionals he is working with and plan meaningful instruction based on those concerns and perspectives; and the second is Logan's ability to bring together what he knows his colleague desires for his/her students and then share his unique expertise to actually elevate the learning experience. Although I am the person officially nominating Logan for this award I feel very comfortable stating that I speak for many others who have had similar experiences collaborating with Logan. Logan's commitment to his field, his colleagues, and this college are well-known and respected, and I believe he should be recognized for his exemplary performance and dedication.

Skills in Librarianship:

I think that it is somewhat normal to have a strong idea of the roles and responsibilities our own professions demand of us, and it is also quite normal to underestimate the roles and responsibilities required of the individuals we collaborate with – even those we collaborate most closely with. This has been the case with Logan as I have set to the task of nominating him for this award. In order to best represent Logan's skills in Librarianship it will be easiest to provide subcategories that help to capture various aspects of these criteria.

Library Instruction:

As stated earlier, Logan and I have been collaborating since his first semester working at the college. Over the course of our professional relationship our collaborative efforts have grown from what I would now characterize as more "informational" library instruction where Logan

provided a strong sense of resources found within the library and on our website, to the point where we actually co-teach a number of my courses. In fact, Logan is so well acquainted with my courses that he and I have co-created assignments based on information and suggestions he has taken from his own personal research as well as ideas he has obtained by attending conferences. I cannot underscore the impact this level of collaboration has had on the success of our students. Logan's field is ever-changing and developing, and this means that library instruction needs to occur frequently and in ways that are relevant to the students so that they are able to be successful meeting requirements that have been created to prepare them for the fields they are heading into. The fact that Logan has aligned goals for our students that are strongly embedded in course requirements has served to help keep our students and me current with regards to informational literacy; succeed when meeting course requirements because both content area experts are present and on the same page; and helped create stronger bonds with students that help them to be more successful regardless of the classes they are taking. I have often noted to our students that they will develop a closer relationship with Logan than perhaps any of their professors throughout their programs due to the fact that he will be a constant resource they will come to rely on very heavily – especially since he has taken the time to sit down with faculty from across our programs in order to map meaningful library instructional activities that help scaffold our students' knowledge and professional skill development. In fact, Logan's contributions are so valued by our department that his contact information has now been included in all syllabi created for our courses.

In addition to working with the Department of Education and Human Development, Logan also works closely with several other departments and disciplines including Health Science, History, Public Administration, Modern Languages and Cultures, Honors Jr. Colloquium, Women and Gender Studies, and high school extension classes with students from Medina, Brockport and Spencerport. Certainly library instruction has always been a vital aspect of any college community; however, I personally feel it has taken on an even greater level of importance in an era where technology and ways in which professionals consume and use information is ever changing. The fact that so many professionals from so many different areas of expertise work collaboratively with Logan is strong testimony to the fact that he is such a valuable asset. Not only does he form strong collaborative relationships with established faculty from different departments, he also is pro-active in his communications with new faculty. Speaking on behalf of the Department of Education and Human Development I can testify to the fact that Logan knows our department so well he will take the initiative to reach out to new faculty so they understand how the library instruction for our programs has been created and how it may impact the courses they teach. This is invaluable to us.

Even when thinking about different modes of instruction Logan excels when supporting the curricular goals and objectives relevant to different courses. Online teaching has been on the rise, as an example, and Logan has been pro-active when thinking about how library instruction can find its way into asynchronous online and hybrid course offerings. I personally have Logan "added" to every one of my undergraduate courses as a librarian so that he can upload any materials/tutorials he thinks will help further my students' success when meeting requirements, and I know I am not alone in this. Additionally, when I teach graduate level courses I always ensure the students are meeting Logan so they can have his support as they navigate through their graduate work and eventual thesis/culminating projects. One of the things they all typically

appreciate Logan for his instrumental role in making Zotero available to them and showing them the software and how to use the helpful tutorials he has on the SUNY Brockport library website. Simply put, his efforts make our students' lives better and more productive – not a small benefit to a busy graduate student who works and needs to complete a Master's degree.

In addition to a heavy library instruction load, Logan also oversaw interlibrary loan from 2011-2014. As the resource librarian he revamped workflows for interlibrary loan to make requesting items easier. He also transitioned course reserve requests to an online process, and streamlined patron driven acquisitions through ILLiad (interlibrary loan software). Additionally, he served as an IDS mentor to keep Brockport as a benchmark institute for interlibrary loan within SUNY. As part of his responsibilities overseeing interlibrary loan he implemented GetItNow to reduce the yearly copyright bill from \$6,000.00+ to less than \$100.00 and transitioned interlibrary loan from a 1.5 person department to a cross-departmental team.

To further articulate Logan's contributions to the college there are a number of systems Logan has implemented and/or managed. They are as follows:

- *GetItNow* – to reduce College expenditure for copyright compliance on Interlibrary Loan requests
- *GIST for ILLiad* – to facilitate rapid purchase on Demand through Interlibrary Loan
- *MRBS* – to unify and facilitate room scheduling within Drake Library
- *GIST Gift & Deselection Manager* – for Technical Services
- Footprints to replace the Ask-a-Librarian email service with a ticketing service
- *LITS Help A-Z* – to unify and organize technical documentation across LITS
- *LibStats* – to keep reference statistics digitally
- *LibraryH3lp* – to provide chat service for reference
- *CELT Teaching with Technology* – site to include researched best practices as well as a listing of the experts and offices at the college who can help people incorporate technology into courses
- Wrote code for and implemented RequestIt! To streamline requesting items and chapters of items from WorldCat for personal use and course reserves
- Customized and configured local version of WorldCat catalog providing quick access to items
- Library presence in ANGEL and Blackboard

As can be seen in the above items, Logan consistently goes above and beyond expectations when seeking to find ways to contribute to our college in his role as a librarian. This is even further demonstrated when factoring in that he designed a Brockport Accounts chart to help clarify account information to new students as well as the fact that he executed and oversaw a \$20,000.00 innovative instructional technology grant to establish the *Open SUNY Information Literacy Portal* available through Digital Commons @Brockport.

Service to the University and to the Profession:

Logan is, quite honestly, one of the most accessible people I have ever worked with. I know he has been extremely generous with his free time when planning for our personal collaborations, but I have also heard many of my students and colleagues discussing either a meeting they have

had with Logan or their intentions of scheduling a meeting (and sometimes just heading over to the library to find him). As a professor you tend to hear discussions among your students, both when they are satisfied and when they feel dissatisfied, and I have never heard anything from them that has not been complementary of Logan. In fact, I would say that it is quite a testimony to Logan that I hear his name so much in the casual conversations of my students since he is not technically a professor in our department – I am many times convinced that our students think he is a member of our faculty.

I know that I am not alone in my appreciation of Logan's dedication and flexibility as he is very actively involved across SUNY through the SUNY Librarians Association. Logan has also executed a grant that was an outcome from a SCLD meeting, and he has been involved with the Innovation Library Service through the Technology certificate program. Additionally, he has been involved in the Tools of Engagement Project fellow, and served as the Moodle Administrator and Team Mentor for LILAC.

On a more local level Logan's service has been equally as impressive as he has made contributions to the college with regards to Academic Success Center Planning; has served on the College Senate and the Faculty Roles and Rewards Committee; and was instrumental in the recent Middle States Monitoring Report. Additionally he has taught GEP 100 as the instructor of record which includes acting as an advisor, and he has also taught EDI 729 *Critical Multiliteracies B-6* during the Summer 2015 session (his IAS scores averaging around 0.55). Logan also led a My Accounts training session at summer orientation.

Scholarship and Professional Growth:

I mentioned earlier in the summary presentation, but it certainly is most relevant when discussing Logan's scholarship and continuing professional growth. Logan's particular area(s) of expertise are constantly changing and evolving at a rapid pace. I am always astonished at how dramatically issues related to librarianship change from semester to semester, and part of my astonishment is the fact that Logan is always current and ready to help my colleagues, students and me keep up with trends in finding and using information (among other things). I feel confident that Logan is an extraordinary professional who takes his responsibilities very seriously – including a commitment to attending professional conferences, presenting at them, and contributing to the field through his own research and research collaborations.

Logan's dedication to scholarship and professional growth is demonstrated by the fact that he obtained a second Master's degree in Information Design and Technology from SUNYIT in 2012. He is also currently enrolled in a doctoral level class to expand his understanding of learning sciences as they relate to librarianship. He has attended and presented at numerous conferences (as can be seen in his vita) that deal not only with issues directly related to his area of expertise, but also collaborative efforts that seek to reach across disciplines and help members of the college community see the value of working together with librarians as we best serve the needs of our students. I know these collaborations have resulted in publications with one of my esteemed colleagues, Dr. Sandra Cimbricz, as well as research currently in-progress with me where Logan and I have collected data following an intensive embedded librarian/professor collaboration in one of my courses. Additionally, Logan has presented several times at the

ILLiad international conference on Website design, workflow enhancements, and customizing print templates. To add to this, he also developed two software addons for ILLiad to enhance workflows – this software is used by over 1300 institutions.

Conclusion:

The *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship* is an honor reserved for a librarian who consistently goes above and beyond meeting the expectations of his/her job requirements with regards to skill in librarianship, service to the University and to the profession, and scholarship and continuing professional growth. It is my sincere belief that Logan Rath exemplifies the spirit of this award, and it is my hope that I, along with the other professionals who enthusiastically agreed to write letters of support for Logan, have presented a nomination portfolio that will strongly support him in being recognized. While I have sought to speak to the criteria outlined in the *Policies and Procedures Guidelines* there is certainly a limit to how fully a person of Logan's dedication and excellence can be represented most fully in this type of format. While it is relatively easy to provide artifacts as evidence of some of the important and thoughtful contributions Logan has made to his field, it is far more difficult to capture the positive dispositions he demonstrates as he fulfills his commitments. Library instruction, as one example of many I could provide, is an increasingly important aspect of schools generally speaking, and colleges specifically when thinking about this award. Logan is always thinking about innovative ways to bring his area to life for our students so that they truly come to see the value of how the library and its resources can aide them in their professional goals. What is difficult to capture however, is his presence when leading a class and/or working with students individually. There is a passion and commitment that is *felt* by those of us who work with Logan. This aspect of Logan's professionalism is more difficult to capture in a more tangible way, but it is his professional dispositions that are the very traits that are what make Logan a standout in his field and in our college community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and I will be happy to share further information that might aide in your consideration of Logan for this award – a recognition I feel he richly deserves.

Respectfully,

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