

**Award: Clerkship Coordinator Recognition : Entry #
18576****Basic Information****Your name:**

John Rectenwald MD, MS

Your title:

Vice Chair of Education

Your institution

UW Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Your email address:vanhierden@wisc.edu**Nominee Information****Name of nominee**

Sarah Larson

Nominee's Institution

UW Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Nominee's title

Medical Student Education Program Manager

Nominee's emaillarsonsa@surgey.wisc.edu**Please confirm nominee's email**larsonsa@surgey.wisc.edu**Eligibility****Has the nominee been an active member of the ASE for more than 1 year?**

Yes

Has the nominee been in the role of clerkship coordinator for more than 3 years?

Yes

Has the nominee won the ASE Clerkship Coordinator Recognition Award before?

No

Has the nominee presented material related to surgical clerkships at local/national meetings?

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Yes

Short Essays**Why do you think the nominee deserves this award?**

Sarah is deserving of this award for more reasons than I can highlight in one paragraph. Her progressive responsibility in the clerkship over the last four years demonstrates the departments commitment to her innovation, passion and professionalism. Sarah started out as the Medical Student Program Coordinator for the Department of Surgery and quickly rose to the rank of Medical Student Education Program Manager in less than a year. She has proven her commitment to medical student education through continually assessing educational goals, developing yearly measurable outcomes and tracking systems, and conducting audits to evaluate and ensure progress.

How has the nominee demonstrated creativity, expertise, and commitment to their work within the surgery clerkship program?

Not only has Sarah arranged elective and clerkship rotations for over 160 medical students but she has implemented a highly successful continuity clinic program with the 12-week Clerkship, the Surgical and Procedural Care Block. Sarah is a strong driver in research projects in medical student education involving education techniques/approaches, simulation cases, curriculum development, faculty/resident teaching and evaluation improvement, and medical student performance improvement. However, I think Sarah's largest accomplishment is her role in assisting with the development of new curriculum in the Department of Surgery. She is constantly using her expertise in medical student education to improve the experience in a creative and effective manner.

How has the nominee demonstrated passion for supporting medical student education and for contributing to the continuous improvement of the educational experience for medical students in surgery?

Sarah is celebrated for contributing to the continuous improvement of the educational experience for the medical students who come through our department, in addition to supporting those students. Sarah developed a Surgery Report of Student Concern Process in order to provide transparent and clear action when incidents of mistreatment are reported. Her enthusiasm and sincerity provide medical students the comfortability to take advantage of this implemented program in order to make positive changes for future medical students. Her drive to continuously improve the program is apparent through the projects she has deployed to ensure teaching of medical students is continually improving and is spread out among faculty. She created and developed an automated program to track "Division Expectations in Teaching and Assessment" for medical student education, which resulted in increased faculty volunteers from 42% to 87%. Sarah successfully presented and effectively communicated this new program to various leadership groups in the department.

How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to the education of peers through presentations or other active roles within their institution and the Association for Surgical Education (ASE)?

During a very busy and ever-changing pandemic, Sarah continued to strive as a scholar. She produced three publications, serving as the lead author of two of them. She was also the recipient of the Coordinator of the Year Award in Medical Simulation (2021) through UW Health Clinical Simulation Program, proving her commitment to the education of her peers. Since 2018 she has been selected for 14 international, national, regional and local presentations which highlights her research around medical education.

How has the nominee demonstrated effective communication and approachability?

Sarah makes sure that individual student voices are heard. She is remarkably approachable, while timely and reliable. Sarah makes sure that along with the appropriate surgical rotation communication students receive, that they also know she is available to be contacted via email, telephone, or just by walking into her office; her door is always open. She responds to emails in a timely manner, often within the hour of receiving them, and is great at problem solving. She solicits feedback from medical students on the curriculum through quarterly sessions with medical students on their surgery block. Not only does she collect this feedback, but she then turns around and elicits change within the curriculum and the department. Sarah has demonstrated commitment to her work, and I have no doubt she will continue to bring excellence to the field and empower all the students she interacts with.

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Please give an example of how the nominee has demonstrated an enthusiastic attitude towards medical students and the surgery clerkship program.

Annually, Sarah attends national conferences focusing on medical student education and continually seeks further training and educational opportunities. Within our institution, Sarah attends regular meetings of our Surgical Education Research and Innovation Group, a group of surgeons, researchers, and administrators who discuss current topics in surgical education and ways to improve our medical student and residency curriculums. In addition, Sarah launched the departments "Underrepresented in Surgery Visiting Medical Student Scholarship" program, which supports qualified 3rd and 4th year medical students from underrepresented backgrounds in surgery and medicine to come and rotate at UW with a monetary scholarship. She led the application review committee, provided resources and training to faculty, residents, and staff in the program. This showed her enthusiasm to our clerkship program and her passion to continually wanting to improve it.

Please give an example of when the nominee has role modeled professional behavior.

Sarah is the epitome of professionalism – her workplace etiquette is built on the foundation of acting in a respectful and courteous conduct. She shows compassion for others, responds appropriately to emotional situations, and demonstrates a calm, compassionate, and helpful demeanor toward those she is working with, regardless of their role. This behavior was proven the first year of the pandemic when she was tasked with moving an entire clerkship program that was historically in-person, to now fully virtual. In a time that could have led to great failure, Sarah remained calm and immediately found ways to not only make this new "normal" work, but also make it better at the same time. You would have never known that this was unknown territory for her. She is truly gifted in this way.

Additional Information

Please list the nominee's leadership roles inside and outside their institution, including professional organizations related to medical student education.

Academic Leadership and Service:

- Assessment Methods Member, Overall ForWard Curriculum Review (May 2022 – Present)
- Mentor, University of Wisconsin Academic Staff Mentorship Program (Sept. 2020 – Present)
- Member, Surgery Enhancing Teaching Effectiveness Committee (January 2020 – Present)
- Co-Leader, UWSMPH Administrators/Coordinators (Sept. 2018 – Present)
- Judge, Debate and Forensics, Appleton Area School District (Sept. 2013 – Present)
- Judge, GEE! Learning Games Award (May 2022 – July 2022)
- Reviewer, Play, Make, Learn Conference Proposal Committee (March 2022 – April 2022)
- Member, UW-Madison COVID-19 Response Team: Assessing Student Learning & Academic Experience Committee (April 2020 – July 2021)
- Reviewer, International Conference on Quantitative Ethnography Proposals (July 2020 – Aug. 2020)
- Member, UW-Madison Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning Committee (Sept. 2019 – May 2021)

Professional Affiliations

- American College of Surgeons
- American Educational Research Association: Member of Accreditation, Assessment, and Program Evaluation SIG; Member of Career and Technical Evaluation SIG; Member of Faculty Teaching, Evaluation, and Development SIG; Member of Education in the Professions SIG
- Association for Surgical Education: Member of Committee on Coordinators of Surgical Education; Member of Clerkship 101 Committee for Medical Student Coordinators
- International Society for Quantitative Ethnography: Member of Health and Healthcare SIG
- Medical Education Administrators and Coordinators
- UW Madison Learning Analytics Community