



**PennState**

**Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications**

The Pennsylvania State University

201 Carnegie Building

University Park, PA 16802-5101

April 9, 2026

Dear Bellisario College Staff Award Review Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for Shilo Brown's nomination for the Dean's Rising Star Award. Although new to the College's staff, Shilo's dedication to continued excellence makes her a top candidate for this award.

The primary goal of our unit is student success, and Shilo's leadership in taking on new projects, being proactive for meeting timelines and managing multiple initiatives helps us to provide needed services, deliver programs and meet university requirements. In particular, her dedication to managing and coordinating the undergraduate teaching assistant program has benefited myriad students and faculty. She oversees recruitment, retention, onboarding and training, and navigates any questions or problems, not a small task with several dozen TAs working at any given semester. She has also proactively reached out to see about facilitating a revised undergraduate research assistant program, which we plan to discuss for the coming academic year.

I can attest to Shilo's commitment to and support of University values, such as community and responsibility, that also speak to her professionalism and dependability. As a new interim administrator, the learning curve for me has been steep. Shilo has been unwavering in her generosity of time and experience, helping me navigate new issues, explaining processes, giving me lots of lead time before deadlines and always providing support, whether it be helping to manage my calendar or suggesting. She met with me my very first day to ask about my scheduling preferences and go over ongoing projects that I would be overseeing, always with a positive attitude and spirit of cooperative teamwork.

Finally, Shilo is an innovative and creative problem solver. She worked with me to develop a Qualtrix survey to automate the process of applying for Hearst funds for guest speakers, making it much easier to see the workflow, maintain funds records, and ensure equality across departments. We are currently in the process of doing the same for grade adjudication requests, so that the workflow is immediately present, all

required documentation resides in one place, and students are spared the burden of seeking out multiple signatures from faculty after the semester has ended, and many are traveling.

These are just a few examples. Given my experiences with Shilo, I strongly and without hesitation recommend her for this recognition. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juliet Pinto, Ph.D  
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Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
Bellisario College of Communications  
Penn State