



**PennState**

**Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications**

The Pennsylvania State University

201 Carnegie Building

University Park, PA 16802-5101

April 11, 2025

To the Awards Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Shilo Brown for the Rising Star Award. In her one and a half years with the Bellisario College, Shilo has made a big impact, not only through her strong work ethic, administrative skills, and creative input, but also as a treasured colleague whose positive presence has raised morale and improved collegiality in the deans' suite. Shilo truly cares about her colleagues and makes every effort to support them personally and professionally, volunteering to assist in College-wide initiatives and events outside of her purview.

Shilo is committed to process improvement and has taken the initiative to automate several previously cumbersome processes that relied on manual data entry. For example, to enhance compliance with university course distribution policy, she created a mechanism to automatically update reports by major as section times are updated or course sections cancelled. Just yesterday she created an online fillable form for department heads to initiate supervisor and budget officer approvals for full-time staff instructor hires.

Shilo has taken on the challenge of developing and launching new programs within the College, working with Associate Dean Bortree on her vision for these programs in the short and long term. Recently, these have included the Bellisario College Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program (UGTA) and Research Assistant Program (UGRA), and the Provost Endorsement for Championing Teaching & Mentoring. Developing Bellisario College procedures from the ground up, Shilo worked with the IST College Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning to utilize the already established processes of their program and incorporate the unique needs of the Bellisario College.

Also designed for the UGTA program was COMM 497, the Bellisario College's Leadership and Technology for Communications Instruction course. Shilo did the research and pulled resources from other units to assist Danielle Harris's development of the course, required for all newly employed undergraduate teaching assistants.

Shilo also helped with the integration of the Simple Syllabus platform, assisting faculty in building and submitting their digital syllabi.

We are better for having Shilo on staff. Please give her your strongest consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

Julie Evak