

CHEMISTRY

Faculty and Staff Award Honorees - 2024



College of Science

Jackie Butram – Executive Assistant

Leadership Award



Jackie has shown outstanding leadership skills in completing time sensitive tasks. She has gone beyond the mark of excellence, especially in the task of coordinating with faculty search teams to make sure everything is on schedule to insure the candidates are given a well-rounded perspective of the department and what it has to offer. She is always willing to fill in when her staff needs assistance and carries out all duties in a friendly manner.

Gaurav Chopra - Associate Professor

Leadership Award



Gaurav is the Director of Merck-Purdue Center, a relationship that has brought in ~\$3 million. This Center serves projects across Colleges of Science, Pharmacy and Engineering.

Jeffrey Dick - Richard B. Wetherill Associate Professor

Leadership Award



Jeffrey recognized the need for and value of a case-based discussion course on research ethics for our graduate students. On his own initiative, he worked to find a time to offer such a course as an overload to his main teaching assignment. In its first offering, 26 students signed up for the course. The students are given general and case-based readings which are then discussed in class. This course is a highly valuable addition to our graduate program that emphasizes a vital aspect in the training of our students. Jeffrey's selfless effort to offer this course to our students is highly worthy of recognition of an example of the kind of leadership we need to enhance the value of the education we offer to our students.

Leah Everly - Senior Instructional Specialist

Professional Achievement Award



As a course coordinator, Leah has managed courses, students, teaching assistants and instructors exceedingly well and went way beyond what is required of this role. She is very effective and patient when working with new instructors or those teaching a course for the first time. She naturally connects with students in a manner similar to a caring school counselor. She helps students stay calm by listening to their problems and providing advice. She helps students who are in need of more attention than the instructors can provide.

Angeline Lyon - Associate Professor

Graduate Student Mentoring Award



Angeline's outstanding engagement of students both within and outside her group showcases her dedication to fostering a vibrant academic community. Within her group, she cultivates an environment of collaboration, mentorship, and intellectual curiosity. Outside her group, she demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and community-building. Her efforts contribute to a supportive and inclusive academic environment where students feel valued, inspired, and motivated to excel.

Sarah Nern - Outreach Coordinator

Engagement Award



Sarah is being recognized for engagement with our high school teachers! By actively engaging with high school teachers, she provides valuable resources, support, and expertise to enhance the quality of STEM education at the high school level. Through workshops, seminars, and professional development opportunities, she equips teachers with innovative teaching methods and curricular enhancements.

Erick Norwood – Instrumentation Assistant

Customer Service Award



Erick is extraordinarily helpful when instruments are in need of repair and always answers requests efficiently and honestly. He recently saved tens of thousands of dollars by sourcing and replacing a power supply on a critical instrument that is used daily by many in the department. The instrument manufacturer could not offer the small replacement part and required an expensive service call, so Erick was able to find an alternative part, modified it to work with the current instrument, and it now runs like new. We are so grateful to Erick for his creativity, willingness to find solutions, and for being absolutely fantastic to work with!

Mike Reppert - Assistant Professor

Leadership Award



Mike has been proactive in organizing and leading new initiatives in the PChem DRG and department, with the goal of boosting the quality of our graduate program. Last summer, he initiated and led the graduate student proposal writing course that targets students' critical thinking, and writing skills and prepares them for careers in academia. This fall, he organized the inaugural Quantum Sciences at Purdue workshop for undergraduate and prospective graduate students. The workshop gathered more than 50 visiting students, primarily from Midwest schools, introduced them to a breadth of quantum research at Purdue through a series of educational and research lectures, poster presentations, and hands-on practice sessions.

Gudrun Schmidt – Assistant Professor of Practice

Undergraduate Advising Award



Gudrun's engagement of many undergraduates in research reflects her dedication to fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment. By actively involving students in research endeavors, she not only imparts valuable hands-on experience but also nurtures a culture of curiosity and intellectual exploration.

John Smith – Associate Systems Engineer

Customer Service Award



John is being honored with a customer service award. His kindness and approachability are cornerstones of his exceptional customer service. With a warm and welcoming demeanor, he fosters positive interactions and builds strong rapport with clients, making them feel valued and supported every step of the way. He is very knowledgeable, and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that we receive the highest level of assistance. One of his most admirable qualities is his unwavering willingness to help, even at a moment's notice.

Audra Weideman - Administrative Assistant

Customer Service Award



Audra started as a faculty secretary and now serves at the front desk of the main office. She learns quickly and puts her skills to work by venturing out and finding easier ways to accomplish various tasks. Individuals who visit the department head's office experience her customer service skills through her friendly and courteous interaction style. She is also valued by her co-workers due to her willingness to always give a helping hand to accomplish tasks.

Rita Woodard - Operations Clerk

Customer Service Award



Rita deserves this award for her welcoming approach to new individuals, taking initiative, and being very compassionate and intuitive. She demonstrates excellence every day by sharing kindness with everyone around her! An outstanding asset to our department - always willing to help!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to all of our honorees for your persistent efforts to create a culture of respect, inclusion, innovation and growth.

We appreciate you!



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