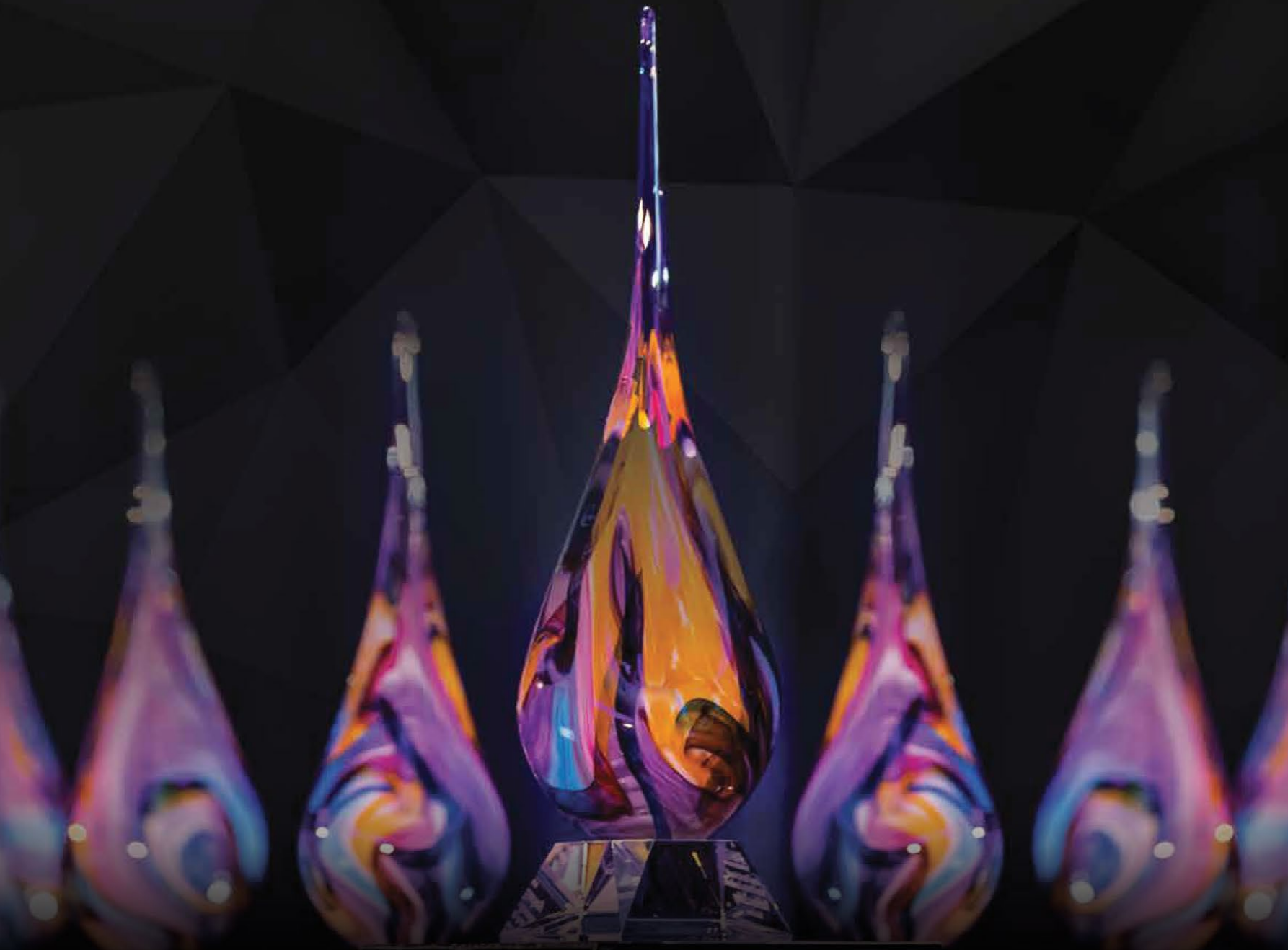


ADMIN AWARDS®

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CHICAGOLAND | JUNE 24



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A LETTER FROM THE ADMIN AWARDS



The 2022 Chicagoland Admin Awards Good as Gold Gala marks a milestone with so many reasons to celebrate. This evening is a return to our in-person format after two long, but tremendously gratifying years of being virtual. After arguably one of our generations' most cataclysmic events, we are back, celebrating the amazing spirit, heart and expertise of the country's intrepid Administrative Professionals.

As I reflect on the evening and attending my first Chicagoland Admin Awards Gala, I feel compelled to identify the common denominator, the thread that runs through this honorable endeavor to celebrate the most important group of professionals. It's generosity.

The generosity of the amazing Chicagoland Advisory Board. These passionate Admins, who already shoulder the burden of their intense jobs, family obligations and life's curveballs, spent hours of their own time advancing our mission to ensure that every Admin doing excellent work has the opportunity to be recognized through the Admin Awards program. They are our VIP's, and many of them also volunteered to help us set up and work the Gala. We love them dearly.

The generosity of extremely busy Executives and teams positively impacted by their Admins' great work, who take time out of their busy schedules to write thoughtful nominations and participate in all the activities, like the Tribute Video, to ensure that their Finalists and Admins feel their support and admiration through their generous contribution of time and resources.

The generosity of our independent Board of Judges, including the legendary Colleen Barrett, who volunteer many hours to evaluate nominations and determine our Finalists and Winners. They take it seriously and agonize over their decisions as they go through the process.

The generosity of our Sponsors, who not only provide critical funding that enables the Admin Awards to thrive, but all the additional things they do "just because" they believe so strongly in our mission and the value of Administrative Professionals. From helping us raise awareness, and nominating, to providing major prizes, they reach well beyond their own business interests in their many contributions. We are so fortunate to have a strong family of long-term Sponsors who demonstrate their passion in so many unique ways.

Most importantly, Administrative Professionals are generosity personified! It shouldn't surprise us that their very nature inspires generosity in all who are impacted by them. Though it is likely not written into any job description, Admins are inherently generous with their time, hearts, and actions. Every day, we encounter Admins with amazing credentials who are prime candidates for being nominated and who are much more focused on having their peers recognized than they are on themselves. It inspires us to see Admins who are eager to see one of their peers in the spotlight. This attribute of generosity is no more pronounced than with Administrative Professionals and it motivates us every day!

From the entire Admin Awards organization, congratulations to this year's Finalists and Award Winners, you all deserve your time in the limelight! And thank you to everyone who made this evening possible – the Chicagoland Advisory Board, the Board of Judges, busy Executives and their teams and our wonderful Sponsors. We are forever grateful for the copious amounts of generosity that bring us together and enable us to honor and celebrate Chicago's Administrative Professionals!

Scott Berlant
Vice President, Strategic Partnerships



CONGRATS TO OUR VERY OWN ROCKSTAR, ACHIEVER AWARD FINALIST ANNETTE RAMOS!

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COLLEEN BARRETT AWARD FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE

ANNA KOTVIS

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT, ADLAI E. STEVENSON
HIGH SCHOOL (DISTRICT 125)

Anna Kotvis is Director's Assistant for Adlai E. Stevenson High School, where she embodies the organization's vision of "Success for Every Student." In her role, she supports efforts to ensure students' well-being, safety, social-emotional growth, and academic learning. She is active in data mining, diligent in scheduling, attentive to student needs, meticulous in cross-checking, compassionate in serving, and is conscientious in keeping students first. Anna always thinks outside of the box in meeting student needs — for example, with the unprecedented substitute teacher shortage and the scheduling challenges it presents, Anna proposed either she, her colleagues, or other staff step into the classroom to help relieve substitutes AND maintain learning for students. Anna moved beyond her comfort zone and responsibilities to do what was right for everyone, and similar actions that illustrate her total commitment to students and the organization happen daily. Students are successful due to the outstanding teachers they learn from — and teachers excel due to the fantastic support Administrative Professionals like Anna provide.

FINALISTS



Loren Ehlers
Streamwood Behavioral
Healthcare System



Eugene Enriquez
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Bonnie Rarick
Audacy Inc.



Lisa Zvonik
Allscripts

COLLEEN BARRETT: SERVANT LEADER AND SUPERSTAR



When The Admin Awards was launched in 2012, we sat down with Colleen Barrett to ask her for her thoughts and experiences on the administrative profession. Her answers from that September interview, edited for brevity, are below:

What did you like most about being a secretary?

I like to serve so you have to start there. I loved to solve problems. And I loved to give exemplary or positive customer service delivery on behalf of whomever I was working for. Life is all about

relationships... you have an opportunity in the administrative group to form more relationships than probably any other position — even much higher up on that so-called ladder because you are very often that first point of contact with the outside world or the customer... life is just one big grassroots campaign as far as I'm concerned.

What did you like the least?

I didn't like anything that was routine. I loved to master projects, but, for example, filing was only interesting to me because I loved to be able to find anything that anyone was looking for... I've never liked rote work. (But) there's some that goes in every job no matter what position you're in.

What was the most challenging aspect of serving Herb Kelleher?

Being a nanny for 45 years for a man who has always thought he was 17 regardless of any year that was added to his personal calendar! He was a great servant leader. He loved life and you almost couldn't be around him and not catch that love of life and love of people.

And the best aspect?

It was truly feeling his egalitarian spirit and appreciating the fact that he valued my judgment and thinking as a team member.

Did you ever think you would rise from Secretary to President and COO of Southwest Airlines?

Quite honestly it wasn't something I wanted, and I never wanted to be COO—and I made that very clear to the Board—that isn't my strength. My strength is customer service and people and everything that touches people, and, honestly, being President and COO wasn't my favorite position at Southwest...my favorite position was Executive Vice President-Customers. Customer to us means employees, passengers, and shareholders, so I could really touch everything. I could touch every department. And as President... I had to do a lot more external things... I did them... I can't say I hated them... (but) I like to get down and dirty and really roll up my sleeves.

What advice do you have for Admins?

Love. Everybody. Just love. It's a word that corporate America doesn't use very much... always remember where you came from — so that you know how far you've come...I don't think most of us start out thinking we're going to be the President of the United States or the CEO of a company... and I think... be humble and appreciate what you get. To me psychic satisfaction is 10 times more important than pay or title. Be authentic. Be real. Remember who you are.

**"Be authentic. Be real.
Remember who you are."**

- Colleen Barrett

LEADERSHIP AWARD

WINNER



MICHELLE PIKSCHER

BUILDING SECRETARY, CAMPANELLI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHAUMBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

Michelle Pikscher is Secretary at Campanelli Elementary School — and it is not an understatement to say she brings joy to everyone she encounters through her exceedingly positive attitude and commitment to upholding the highest standards. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the school faced a critical leadership staffing vacancy, so Michelle did what she always does — she found a creative way to help by tackling problems like bus driver shortages and implementing COVID-19 protocols. She even assisted with classroom responsibilities and ran

the front office by herself. Michelle is a chaos coordinator, problem-solver, and builder who is quick to learn new technology, create rapport with diverse groups of individuals, and is a value-add to not only the school but to each student's educational journey. She is devoted to elevating her role as secretary at Campanelli, as well as building a legacy of service to others, and is a role model for staff at her school, the community, and other Administrative Professionals.

ACHIEVER AWARD

WINNER



LORI SEAMONS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, W.W. GRAINGER, INC.

As Executive Assistant to the Group Vice President at W.W. Grainger, Lori Seamons has established a reputation as a hard-working, strategic team player who is often two steps ahead of everyone else. Regardless of geography, time zone, or challenges, Lori does an outstanding job at managing calendars, travel, team meetings, customer meetings, and special projects —all while perfectly understanding the balance between heart and mind. She plays a key leadership role in the Grainger ABP, a business resource group for administrative business professionals, and she recently led the ABP Academy project to further the

development of Grainger's Administrative Assistants. Her contributions to this project have been a game changer — Lori's forward-thinking footprint will be evident at Grainger for many years to come as she has helped Administrative Assistants be better equipped to meet the company's continuously evolving demands. Lori's extraordinary dedication and leadership are why she's one of Grainger's most highly respected team members.

FINALISTS



Jarrod Cunningham
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Heather Moore
W.W. Grainger, Inc.



Sharon Pasquesi
Adlai E. Stevenson
High School



Kim Selega
AbbVie



Amy Tilley
Glanbia Performance
Nutrition



Christina Velazquez
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago

FINALISTS



Ann McKeveitt
Segal Consulting



Mary Paulson
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Annette Ramos
Link Logistics Real Estate



Stephanie Sotelo
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AWARD

FINALISTS

WINNER



LOREN EHLERS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, STREAMWOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Loren Ehlers is Executive Assistant at Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System, where she supports the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Clinical Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Executive Officer. The past two years demonstrated the incredible importance of Loren's strategic partnership, as the role of EA required the implementation of an emergency preparedness plan —doubling the amount of documentation and reporting needed to coordinate each of the executive team members to the CEO and regulatory agencies — as well as changing policies and procedures for the whole organization, from hiring and screening employees to service delivery. Her multitasking talents were put to test, but she excelled in her ability to see the impact if Streamwood did not become assertive with change, and every executive worked directly through Loren to ensure they stayed ahead of patient and staff expectations. Loren's value grew exponentially every day that went by during the pandemic — and it only continues to do so.



Tricia Galocy
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Courtney Nash
ESD (Environmental
Systems Design, Inc)



Cathy Rouleau
Adlai Stevenson High School

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

FINALISTS

WINNER



BOBBY FORTUNE

OPERATIONS MANAGER, BEARING TREE

Bobby Fortune is Operations Manager at Bearing Tree, where in a short amount of time, he has become a valuable and critical member of the team. From his first day, he took on many of the logistics for the company's downtown Chicago office move. Bobby managed all the details including hiring a moving company, coordinating furniture disposal, purchasing breakroom appliances, and collaborating with countless staff and vendors. His driven and detail-oriented approach made the move as seamless as possible for the team, which prevented any productivity or project delays. Bobby consistently handles the type of

important, but often unknown, tasks that are so prevalent in Admin roles. Bearing Tree's motto is "Making it easier to make a difference," as the company helps nonprofit organizations bring their solutions to some of society's most pressing problems. Every day, Bobby represents what that motto means in practice — he is truly an expert at implementing new ideas that further Bearing Tree's important mission.



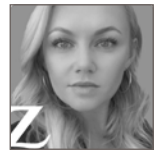
Beatriz Estrada
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Roman Gomez
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Jasmin Gonzalez
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Kasia Magiera
Zurich North America

Walgreens Boots Alliance is proud to congratulate

Diane Higgins

on being a Spirit Award category finalist at the 2022 Admin Awards

Diane is the epitome of our purpose to create "more joyful lives through better health"



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Krystal Akons



Leslee Kupperman

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and all the Chicago Admin Awards finalists!

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LOYALTY AWARD

WINNER



LAURA FEIGEL

BUSINESS AFFAIRS COORDINATOR, GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In her role as Business Affairs Coordinator at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Laura Feigel is the go-to person for just about everyone. She can find the answer to any question, provides timely responses, is proactive with schedules, and does it all with the most kind-hearted of approaches. Though the majority of what Laura does is “behind the scenes,” her foresight in identifying and solving problems is impossible to

miss. That’s particularly true as her role and function have grown due to her initiative and willingness to champion different and larger projects. She coordinates a complex management team with many stakeholders and external parties, while still finding time to oversee the Employee Events Committee and serve as an essential member of the Health and Safety team. Laura’s dedication and commitment to excellence are inspirational, as is her management of a dynamic executive and office environment. Her colleagues say she is the glue that holds them together — and keeps the airport running.

SPIRIT AWARD

WINNER



KAREN WARD

OFFICE SPECIALIST, GUARDIAN ANGEL COMMUNITY SERVICES

A tireless supporter and advocate for victims of domestic violence, Karen Ward is Office Specialist at Guardian Angel Community Services, which has served the Chicagoland area for nearly 125 years. Karen fits right into the organization’s well-established mission, approaching the community’s most vulnerable people with genuine care and concern. She started as a volunteer before coming on board full time to support 80-

plus staff members, interns and volunteers in the daily operations of essential services. At the onset of COVID-19, Karen was the first to offer to come to the office — she was unwaveringly committed to helping staff on the front lines as well as clients who needed support and services more than ever. In addition to her administrative duties, she worked to coordinate essential donations of items and food for Guardian’s emergency shelter. Though she often bears witness to heartbreaking stories, Karen helps show clients that while tough times often bring them to Guardian’s doors, their resilience is miraculous.

ABOVE THE CALL AWARD

WINNER



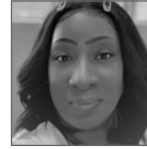
JUNELL LEWIS

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO

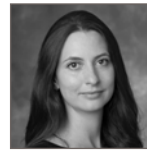
Junell Lewis is Senior Executive Administrative Assistant at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, where she has listened, responded, partnered with, and supported teams in ways that have helped the hospital reach daunting goals never before achieved. Her exceptional compassion and initiative were especially evident at the onset of the pandemic,

during which she shared her own experiences to help Lurie’s leaders better understand the unique needs of the entire Chicago community. With her vice chair, Junell came into the office every weekday and weekend for weeks at a time during COVID-19 to support faculty and members of the care teams and spend extra time with team members who were facing significant challenges. Junell is the unquestioned leader among her peers in spirit, solution-oriented problem-solving and supportive teamwork. She helps dozens of her teammates, directly and indirectly, meet their goals every single day — and she wouldn’t have it any other way.

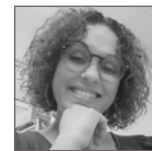
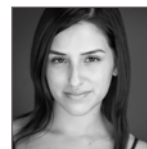
FINALISTS

Krystal Akons
Robert HalfLeah Davis
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoKimberly Grandberry
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoLeslee Kupperman
Robert HalfJeannette Peters
KPMGConchita Pitts
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoJames Velez
The Chicago Institute
for Fetal Health |
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of Chicago

FINALISTS

Nancy Baumgartner
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoRenata Cetera
Prospect Airport
Services, Inc.D'Aries Dyson
McDonald’s
CorporationDiane Higgins
Walgreens HealthMilica Stojanovic
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoTaya Vann
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoLynne Worsham
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of Chicago

FINALISTS

April Carter
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoMaggie DeTamble
Halo InvestingAmy Diaz
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoAlma Gomez
Channing Capital
Management, LLCMichelle Gonzalez
T-MobileKawanda Lee
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoRita Ponce
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of ChicagoPatty Rojas
Southwest AirlinesCrystal Ruiz
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital
of Chicago

ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

FINALISTS

WINNER



LYNNETTE DANGERFIELD

RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGER, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Lynnette Dangerfield is Research Project Manager at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, where her role includes responsibilities ranging from proofreading and assembling research grant submissions to preparing financial documents for the Division of Vascular Surgery's research funding portfolio, which totals more than \$1 million annually. Over the past 34 years, Lynnette also has been an invaluable Administrative Professional for academic leaders who have reached preeminence on the national and international stage

— achievements that would not have been possible without her unwavering loyalty and dedication to Feinberg's research and academic mission. She never misses a research grant deadline and has the uncanny ability to know where she can be most helpful without being asked. Her initiative, efficiency, organization, and excellence make Lynnette the very embodiment of administrative excellence. She consistently goes over and above her job description every day, and in doing so, has enabled the training of many generations of medical students, surgeons, and scientists.



Maria Enriquez
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Perla Lopez Palacios
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago



Lexie Tripp
Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital
of Chicago

GOOD AS GOLD

BEST DRESSED WINNER



ANNETTE RAMOS,
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GOOD AS GOLD

TEAM SPIRIT WINNER



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2022

Chicago Admin
Awards Finalist



Courtney Nash

Environmental Systems Design, Inc.

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