

# LISA WESTERBECK

Research Coordinator,  
College of Fine Arts & Communication -  
Center for Communication, Collaboration,  
and Creativity (C3) Research Center

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH August 2017



*Dr. John Fleming, Lisa Westerbeck, and Dr. Eugene Bourgeois*

Lisa is a great communicator. She is honest, dedicated, and incredibly capable. She is excellent at simplifying difficult processes to help faculty manage funded programs like grants and contracts. She is constantly developing new templates and has done an amazing job creating and maintaining the C3 website, which has become an inspiration to many faculty in the College of Fine Arts and Communication in helping them find, apply for, and manage funding opportunities like grants.

Lisa makes sure the faculty she works with have all the tools they need to succeed. If they're not easily accessible, then she goes out of her way to find or create them herself. She is warm, smart, thorough, and kind. If there's a problem that needs to be fixed, she doesn't just wait for someone else to do it-- she steps up to the plate, takes it head on with tenacity and professionalism, and does it in a way that helps everyone involved. She thinks win-win and never takes any of the credit she deserves.

Lisa has taken the College of Fine Arts & Communication, which typically has very little grant activity, and drastically increased the number of submissions and well-run grants. For instance, one of the biggest accomplishments she has is helping the School of Journalism apply for and manage a large contract with the State. She was involved in the

planning and running of the grant since the beginning, which successfully brought in about \$400k. She also recently helped them gain a follow-up grant which will be worth \$636k.

Lisa is currently earning her Project Management Professional certificate known as a PMP. Many other Research Coordinators at other universities, like UT Austin, have this certification, but currently there are none here. She is focused on moving research in this college forward to be on par with R1 institutions. She has the foresight to gain this as a mechanism to help more faculty successfully complete their grants on time and within budget. In the end this will help more faculty be successful which will in turn put Texas State on the map when it comes to publishing quality research.

Lisa has an amazing work ethic and always goes out of her way to make sure faculty feel comfortable and fully understand their responsibilities when managing funding for their research projects. Plus, she's brilliant! There isn't a project she has worked on that isn't better because she was part of it. She knows how to talk to people about difficult subjects in a way that gives them confidence and helps them know they can achieve their goals. She can see the big picture while also seeing the small details, and then helps put everything together into one shiny bright package.

Congratulations, Lisa, on your dedication, professionalism and hard work!