Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in communication.

Savannah communicates efficiently, and it has been invaluable through the pandemic. Our office staff now works both remotely and on campus in rotating schedules. She also has multiple supervisors. Despite these challenges, she has adapted to the new conditions, made herself available, and continues to communicate electronically and in person when appropriate with all of us. She also has become confident in her work and is not afraid to ask questions when she needs clarity. We have been impressed with Savannah’s adaptability and communication skills through all these changes.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in digital technology.

Use of technology comes naturally to Savannah and when she can’t figure something out, she doesn’t hesitate to ask. Savannah regularly uses multiple SIU systems to gather and report data as necessary for her position. Her accuracy and independence with these systems has helped our team greatly. We know we can trust her with this, which allows us time to focus on other matters. Not only this, but as the pandemic continues to shape our lives, she learned to use Facetime from her phone in order to overcome obstacles related to her position.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in problem-solving.

Savannah is a quick learner and always willing and eager to learn new tasks. Her responsibilities include filing and preparing documents for posting, receptionist duties, distributing reports, messenger run, and data entry. Savannah helps run our messenger run system. This takes a great deal of organization, record keeping, and problem solving. We receive and deliver many packages every day for the School of Medicine researchers. It’s not uncommon for information to get confusing with all of us involved in this complex system, but Savannah makes it all easier. When she notices information that is missing or confusing, she’s quick to bring it up and work it out with us. However, often she is able to troubleshoot issues on her own before she needs our help.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in Professionalism/Work Ethic

Savannah’s level of professionalism at work is outstanding. She is a team player and has a very good relationship with faculty, staff and other student workers. Savannah works very well with little supervision and can be depended upon to cover the office alone when needed. It is very comforting to have an employee who requires such little supervision. She can be depended upon to accomplish her tasks and takes the initiative to find things that need done when she isn’t busy. She is clean, organized, flexible, and isn’t afraid to ask questions when she is unsure about something. She rarely makes a mistake and many times is able to anticipate issues before they occur as she is performing her duties.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in Global/Intercultural Fluency.
Savannah Valerius
2021 Student Employee of The Year Nomination
Nominated by Sam Perry

Savannah has multiple supervisors, works with all School of Medicine Carbondale faculty and staff, and fellow student workers. She is kind and helpful to all of them. We all come from a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and personalities, yet Savannah treats every one of us the same. She never assumes and is careful to communicate with everyone in a professional, kind, and clear manner.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in career management.

Savannah understands the importance of getting along with others through clear and kind communication, which connects us as a team. Optimism and positivity are characteristics that she exudes everyday. She sees this as important on our team, and I know she would in future communities. She was accepted into the new SIUC Nursing program last year, and will likely become one of the first SIUC Nursing graduates. She takes her studies very seriously and it seems like she enjoys her classes. Based on her work ethic with the School of Medicine and in school, we know that she will excel in her field. We would all be very lucky to have such a responsible, reliable, and kind nurse in the workforce.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in leadership.

It’s easy to learn from and follow Savannah because she is intelligent and kind when helping others. A fellow student worker told me that she thought Savannah was an excellent trainer. Savannah helped another student worker learn our mail/package system. She set a great example for our team, taught all the necessary parts of the process, and made sure to support her new coworker. It means a lot when others are sharing Savannah’s accomplishments with us. She is a leader who should be rewarded and reminded that she is doing a great job. Savannah Valerius is creating a positive impact on the world around her.

Please give examples of the nominee’s demonstrated skills in teamwork/collaboration.

Savannah demonstrates all the skills above and that is why she is good at being a part of the team. We have gone through many challenges together, especially through the pandemic, and our team was stringer because of Savannah being with us. Savannah deserves this award because of her exemplary work in our office, in school, and as a kind and responsible person.