

The Association of Donor Relations Professionals
Volunteer Service Award

is hereby presented to
Sarah Sims

Sarah Sims, Director of Donor Engagement at the Oklahoma State University Foundation, we honor you as the 2015 recipient of the Association of Donor Relations Professionals Volunteer Service Award.

You have served the Donor Relations profession in significant, if often unseen, ways. Your humble spirit is not prone to boastfulness or spotlight-seeking. It is your humble heart and your servant leadership that we honor and adore.

In recent years, you have single handedly spearheaded an effort to transform the way the Association perceives, interacts with, and otherwise engages in meaningful relationships with our corporate partners. Your work in this area has led not only to significant increases in revenue from sponsorships, exhibitors, and vendors, but also to a new level of appreciation of what the profession can gain from positive, healthy relationships with these important partners. Under your leadership, we are moving from corporate partners being a necessary evil, to being valuable information and resource providers who can - and do - contribute significantly to our work and to our profession.

None of this is surprising. You have a long history of outstanding service within fundraising and donor relations. You were one of the first to hold a position of your kind. At the Oklahoma State University Foundation you became one of the first true, full-time donor engagement professionals. Now there are dozens in donor relations who do exactly what you do, and they do it the way you do it. You lead sponsorship and corporate partner relations for CASE District IV, helping to transform their experience as well, and now you have agreed to serve as the conference chair for the 2016 ADRP Conference in Pittsburgh. Truly amazing!

Sarah, we hope that you know how much your colleagues cherish and admire you – including and especially those who work closest with you at OSU and within ADRP. Words like “excellent,” “consummate professional,” “devoted,” and “impressive” are what they use to describe you. This quote sums up our admiration best,

“Sarah is the most personally motivated individual I know. She is good at determining what needs to happen next. Her brand of dedication to doing a job and doing it well is what every donor engagement professional should strive for. Beyond that... You couldn't ask for a better human being, a better friend or a better colleague.”

In recognition of your meaningful record of service, we are proud to present you with the 2015 Association of Donor Relations Professionals Volunteer Service Award. Congratulations!

With sincere gratitude,

Erin Moyer, President

October 2015