



Nominee: Elizabeth Rumery
University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus
Groton, Connecticut

Nominator: Sue Shontell

1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award. What sets him/her apart?

My nominee has redefined what the mission of a library director at a UCONN means by her outreach efforts to students, spending time with her student workers and expanding the library to bring information to low and very low income people. She has also brought technology to seniors and speakers to her students in an effort to teach them that information and community interests are all part of being a librarian, She has had at least one student worker go on to library work as a result of her caring spirit. So much so that parents have sought her out to thank her for the difference she has made in their lives. She has made the library not only a place of academic learning and support, but a place to learn life lessons as well.

2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one.

I am the Executive Director of the New London Housing Authority (NLHA), which is a 433 unit Public Housing Development for low and very low income elderly/disabled and families. Many of my staff are single moms or dads who have no college experience. Beth has opened university speakers to staff and families as a way to reach them and show that they too can go to school, not be intimidated by campuses and connect with their lives. For example, the real person from American History X (the movie) was coming to speak on campus. She opened it to my staff and families to attend. She also coordinated with me and asked if I could find someone from HUD to speak to her students and others about career options, after she had helped them use the library resources for their papers. She discovered some were interested in helping those less fortunate. I found her Ned Epps from HUD Washington, who not only worked for HUD but was also a Peace Corp Volunteer. They spoke and between the 3 of us we coordinated a date, time, pizza and train trip. He was wonderful and the students could relate to what they had researched, was brought to life. She also coordinated with the NLHA and her students to collect unwanted cell phones for victims of domestic violence, during

awareness month. Between us, awareness was raised and over 130 phones were donated to the local shelter. I have asked her supervisor and colleague to assist me with the remainder of the nomination, they happily have provided me with the information presented in the remainder of the questions.

3. How does the nominee make the college, community college, or university a better place?

The following words are provided by both UCONN Library Director Nancy Dryden, her supervisor from Main Campus Storrs and Waterbury UCONN Campus Director Shelly Goldstein.

Based on my knowledge of the Avery Point library, Beth has transformed it into a dynamic place that is bustling with activity. The library has evolved into a new, bright venue, with plants (Beth was adamant about bringing some nature into the library), open areas, and opportunities for a variety of learning styles. Beth was instrumental in creating collaborations on her campus, with veterans, the Rainbow Center, and the writing center. Her commitment to outreach is noteworthy and I have always been very grateful for her help in providing workshops to the retired community who take classes at the Waterbury (which is across the state) campus through the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning. Lastly, kudos to Beth for her commitment to her student staff, proving them with a welcoming celebration - unlike any other that libraries provide - consistently at the start of each academic year.

I am particularly pleased with the excellent job Beth has done as the coordinator of the completion of the upgrades to the library spaces. She communicated library needs for interior design by coordinating with campus administration and contractors for renovation construction; participated in bi-weekly meetings with campus, University AES, and contracting personnel; and she collaborated on the installation of new sound reduction drop-down ceilings, lighting, and upgraded electrical outlets on both floors, air conditioning on the second floor, She evaluated furniture needs and costs for further improvements to Learning Commons spaces, including new Media space on second floor. New features include: chairs, tables, wide screen media centers and room for the veterans to meet.

46 new Uno chairs acquired for both floors, Glass walls for second floor Media Room , In addition space where students can gather and are permitted to make some noise hile working together in the glass media rooms.

4. How has the library, and the nominee in particular, had an impact on students and faculty and the teaching and learning process?

Beth shines in her relationships with library colleagues, students, and campus faculty and staff in her quest to advance scholarship, outreach, and learning. She is a highly effective supervisor, working closely with her student workers by holding regular social gatherings and training days, engendering a sense of community in the students. Her flexibility and decision making has shown her progress as a manager and leader. She is a valued team member of the Regional Campus Directors and was an active member of a library wide team, the Diversity Advisory Team

Beth accomplished a great deal as an academic liaison, teaching 26 classes and creating and updating several lib-guides. With the retirement of the marine science librarian, Beth willingly took on supporting that program as well as undergraduate maritime studies classes.

Beth has been active at marketing library and campus activities through Facebook and traditional means, and has participated in training and development opportunities as they have arisen.

She is a member of several campus committees, including the Faculty Learning Community, the campus Leadership Council, the Library Use Committee, and a campus search committee.

5. How has the individual demonstrated leadership in the campus community?

Beth continues her work in outreach and is an active member of her campus community. She again taught an INTD1800 class, College Living, and is an active advisor for the ALLIANCE club, a student gay straight group on campus. She has also created a Safe Space in her library, where students can come and talk to her about sexual orientation issues, thoughts of depression/suicide and other tough personal issues, and she will find the appropriate help, assistance and resources for them. Her work with the learning community on campus, “Local Environments, Global Citizens” earned her a place as a panelist in a program on campus, one that has been accepted for a conference at Fairfield University in May. Under this program the speaker from HUD/Peace Corp Volunteer was made possible.

She has accomplished the follow number of informative classes for both students, faculty and the general public since becoming library director 4 years ago

FY12 – 33 presentations

FY13 – 26 presentations

FY14 – 22 presentations

FY15 – 29 presentations