

## Miriam Bolton's 2015 UO Senate Leadership and Service Award for Officers of Administration Acceptance Address:

I am extremely honored to have been selected as this year's recipient of the UO Senate Leadership and Service Award for Officers of Administration.

This award is meaningful to me because it recognizes the value of service above and beyond the day-to-day responsibilities of our jobs. It acknowledges that participation in committees, advisory groups and elective positions are worthy endeavors for OAs. It values informal leadership, the principles of shared governance, inclusiveness, respect, and professional excellence.

My leadership roles on campus have been a transformative experience for me personally and professionally. I'm proud to be honored for my service to the University. The OA Council's mission includes identifying and addressing pertinent issues, acting as a liaison with central administration, and creating opportunities for collegiality. It feels pretty good to know that my small part in these and other shared governance efforts have made a difference.

But, a leadership award isn't really an individual effort. I would not be standing here accepting this award today without my colleagues from the OA Council. The collaborative efforts of Lisa Raleigh, David Espinoza, Linda Leon, Patricia Easley, Teri Rowe, Colleen McKillip, Patrick Chinn, Deb Mailander, Paula Straight, Chris LeBlanc, and Kristina Mollman.

Together we made a difference for OAs. Together we continued the work that was done by council members before us. Together we looked at our campus community and found ways to encourage thoughtful and meaningful dialogue. We asked hard questions of ourselves and others. We listened and learned. We brought to the attention of senior leadership and the Board of Trustees important issues such as OA Compensation, the need for OA policies, and concerns raised in the listening tour. We joined the efforts of our colleagues to address the need for a more respectful workplace and an Ombuds office. We encouraged others to get involved.

I'm proud that for the last three years, the number of OAs running for elected positions has continued to increase. It's inspiring to know that there are OAs willing to be the next group of leaders to make a positive difference for our campus community as we move forward.

I appreciate the encouragement I received from Dennis Howard, Kees DeKluyver, Scott Coltrane and Andrew Marcus. Not everyone receives support from their department to participate in service opportunities. We need to change our culture to assure that service is valued and prioritized by all managers.

I would also like to acknowledge Jamie Moffitt. She has been a champion for OAs. She has listened open-mindedly to the difficult issues we brought forward and trusted us with a level of candor not always shared with advisory groups. She has been willing to answer questions directly and work to improve transparency and communications. There is still work to be done, but we are heading in the right direction.

A final thought in closing, "Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence." (quote by Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook).

