

March 4,2016

To: Presidential Award for Excellence in Service Committee

I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Lyn Litchke for the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Service.

I met Dr. Litchke while I was putting together a network of university faculty to assist Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) more effectively integrate research on individuals with intellectual disabilities into the SOTX programs and activities. Dr. Litchke enthusiastically jumped into this project and very quickly became the individual I would go to as various challenges arose. Dr. Litchke involved several of her research classes in developing a resource library of pertinent research studies that have been done on individuals with intellectual disabilities and Special Olympics. She also identified and encouraged several of her students to serve internships with SOTX.

Dr. Litchke's insight and enthusiasm not only excited her students about the SOTX project, but helped get SOTX staff excited about looking at ways in which research might improve and expand their SOTX activities. Dr. Litchke also contributed to SOTX efforts by involving Special Olympics athletes in several therapeutic recreation programs she had developed and implemented for the San Marcos community.

The one thing that stands out to me about Dr. Litchke is her commitment to improving the quality of life of those around her. This dedication and her enthusiasm for it sparks similar feelings in her students. In my work with these students, it was not unusual to hear them tell about the impacts they were seeing in their work at local nursing homes, after-school programs, and projects with Wounded Warriors; all of this is the result of Dr. Litchke's guidance and encouragement.

I believe the service efforts of Dr. Lyn Litchke reflect extremely well on the University. I wholeheartedly support her nomination for the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Service.

Sincerely,

Michael Abbott

Retired Administrator at Texas State University

Former Member Board of Directors Special Olympics Texas

