



## Staff Council

### Candidate Statements: Representative, Milken Institute School of Public Health

#### **Mandar Bodas**

Hello, I work as a Research Scientist in the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. I am a trained physician from India and worked as a hospital administrator before pursuing a PhD in Health Policy. I worked at the U.S. Dept of Health Human Services as a CDC Fellow prior to joining GWU in December 2020.

I am excited to be nominated for the Staff Council. A key project in my work at the Mullan Institute involves shedding light on a workforce that is often not respected and valued - those who care for the elderly in their home (direct care workers). I hope to bring the learning from this and other research on the health workforce to all activities I undertake as a Staff Council member.

If elected, I will work with other Council members to represent the interests of all staff. It will be an honor to serve the wonderful and supportive staff at GWU.

Thank you

#### **Christina Fenton**

My name is Christina Fenton and I am thrilled to have been nominated to represent GWSPH on the Staff Council! I have been working in higher education for over 15 years and have been at GW since 2017. As we all know, staff are integral in creating a positive student experience and an inclusive work environment at the university. It would be an honor to represent the interests of staff members across GW and to provide feedback on organizational policies and initiatives.

I am currently the Assistant Director of Program Operations at GW's School of Public Health. In my current role, I support the education of our executive, adult learners, utilizing my experience in operations, communications and event management. Through my professional and volunteer experiences, I have developed a strong skill set which includes leading staff, managing complex projects, and implanting the vision of collaborative mission-driven organizations.

I have my Master's degree in Organizational Leadership and Learning from GW's School of Education and Human Development. I consider myself a lifelong learner and am consistently pursuing opportunities to enhance my skills and knowledge. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the success of the GW Staff Council and I would welcome the opportunity to advocate for the needs of the GW staff.

## **Kim Fulmer**

I am Kim Fulmer and am running for Vice President and GW School of Public Health Representative in our inaugural Staff Council. You might recognize me from the GW Today article announcing the formation of a Staff Council, where I was joined by fellow founding committee members Bridget Schwartz and Chris Dietrich. I have worked full time at GW for 15 years, earning a master's and doctoral candidacy in Higher Education Administration. I currently work in GW Research Pod 2, GW School of Public Health and have previously worked at the Biology Department, School of Nursing, and Registrar's Office. Many of you may know my spouse, Ben Horn, who works at Gelman Library in the Create Digital Studio. (We met in undergrad though!) I love engaging with my fellow staff members through committee work and have worked at Foggy Bottom, VSTC, and remotely. I take immense pride in my employment at GW and want to make it a great place to work.

As staff, we have a complicated, collective experience. We want to be heard and considered when important decisions are made, especially when they directly affect our staff wellbeing. I want the Staff Council to provide a safe, supportive space for staff to solve challenges and share accomplishments. It is important to me to raise the voices of staff whose interests are underrepresented at GW. If elected, you can count on me to be respectful, empathetic, and diplomatic in my communication with the GW administration. It took hard work, perseverance, patience, optimism, and trust to form the Staff Council and I am committed to making this organization as influential as the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association.

## **Conner Hounshell**

Hello! My name is Conner Hounshell, and I am running to be your GWSPH Representative. I currently work at the Center for Community Resilience and am an alumnus of the GW MPH in Health Policy program. I have worked as both a part-time and full-time staff member at GW. I have also served as a student government representative in the past, in which I coordinated efforts with Faculty and Staff Councils to accomplish shared goals. I hope to bring these experiences to the GWSPH Representative role and ensure that staff members' needs are heard and addressed by the university. My focus would be to increase diversity and inclusion efforts at the university, improve access to workplace flexibilities, and increase staff benefits.

## **Kelly Whittier**

Hello everyone! Writing about myself makes me want to crawl under a rock, so I'll use the candidacy statement to briefly talk about what I envision for the first year of the GW Staff Council.

Other institutions have used this model as a tool to advocate for better benefits, address systemic problems, and inform university-wide policies that would have otherwise excluded staff voices. To me, at GW this looks like pushing for greater family leave parity between staff and faculty, adjusting how resources are advertised and made available to staff, and evaluating alternatives to the systems that are needlessly inefficient or poorly designed (take this as my denunciation of the Time Reporting System/Kronos platform). Undoubtedly, there will be several competing priorities among

such a varied and diverse staff and it would be my priority to: 1) regularly update the Milken SPH staff on the business, events, and votes of the Council; 2) make myself readily available for ideas sharing and feedback on school-specific priorities; and 3) set a tone of action during the Council's inaugural session.

I'm eager to support the Staff Council's success in this vital first year –whether that be as the Milken Institute SPH representative or as a volunteer member. Thank you for your consideration and thank you to my wonderful Redstone Center colleagues for nominating me.

Candidate: Kelly Whittier, Director of Communications, Engagement, and Outreach at the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, located within the Department of Prevention and Community Health. Previous experience: political communications and legislative aide.