

**The College of St. Scholastica
Letter of Nomination
2013 Student Employee of the Year**



Outstanding Student Employee!

Student's Name: **Ariana Korpela**

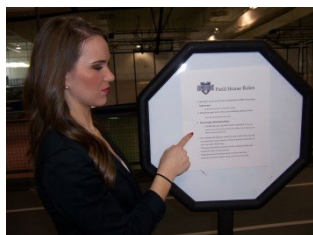
Campus Rec has been blessed with many hard working and outstanding student employees (Rec Crew). It takes a herculean effort from our Crew to keep the Wellness Center (with over 140,000 annual visitors) a safe, clean, and fun facility for all our community members. But even with our high standards, Ariana has proven to be the best of the best . . . the best ever!



Ariana has been an integral member of the Rec Crew Team in the Campus Recreation Department for the past four years. Due to her commitment to her job duties, her outstanding performance, her positive attitude, and her willingness to work collaboratively in a team, she was promoted to a leadership position (Shift Manager) after her first year of employment.

Ariana exudes positive energy and initiative. Her accomplishments are numerous – and here are a few of the many reasons we believe Ariana Korpela is the best darn Shift Manager we have ever had, and why she should be considered for The College of St. Scholastica's 2014 Student Employee of the Year:

- After completing 3 years of our Emergency Response Training, Ariana figured out a way to stream line the process to give employees a more hands on; real life experience. She designed a simulated emergency situation that each employee must respond to in real time. She designed a checklist to evaluate the individual's response and to help identify skills the student could work on.



- Ariana noticed members misusing the facility (i.e. taping floors, extending court use without reservations, improper use of footwear, utilizing equipment in an unsafe manner, etc). She determined many of these problems could be corrected by communicating existing rules in a more efficient, timely and targeted manner. To diminish the incidents, she developed a *Rec Rules!* list of the most important and often abused rules.

She designed and printed up the list to be posted in high traffic areas where they would have the greatest impact. Violations have dropped since the list was posted. *Thanks Ariana!*



- She played a defining leadership role in re-developing our annual Rec Crew training program. She worked collaboratively with one other shift manger to design a training program that utilized “experiential learning stations” where employees use role playing to acquire and then practice the professional skills needed for this position. She developed a check list to guide other student leaders to highlight the skills to be developed during this training.

Then she established an exam to test the propcey of their skill development. This helped us provide targeted training in a shorter timeframe. Students retained more information and picked up the skills more quickly. She was so capable at it, she became our **“Trainer of the Trainers”**

Uniqueness of Contributions

Ariana has done an outstanding job for us in Campus Rec, helping us increase participation in our programming, develop stronger employee training programs, and care for our facility. But what we are most proud of is her commitment to use this position to push herself beyond her comfort zone. This tested and enhanced her confidence in her communication and leadership skills.



In Campus Rec we have learning outcomes associated with our student employment positions, Ariana not only improved her skills, but she pushed herself to demonstrate her use of the following professional skills:

- Working Collaboratively (with other staff members to develop the new Shift Manager training protocols)
- Leadership Development (taking initiative to manage highly stressful, conflict ridden situations utilizing our servant leadership model).
- Critical Thinking (Identified problematic situations and determined appropriate solutions – i.e. *Rec Rules! list*)
- Independence (Served as sole supervisor of athletic facility during weekend, evening and holiday hours)



Ariana is that unique “team player” whose energy and enthusiasm actually strengthens the team. She will leave us a stronger, more organized Campus Rec Department! We hate to see her go, but we are excited to see how she will use her skills in her future endeavors.

Thanks Ariana – you’re awesome!

- your friends in the Rec Crew