Citizen Science Board Application

Name:
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Organization Affiliation (if applicable):
University of Washington

Role (if applicable):
Associate Dean, College of the Environment

One paragraph background on relevant experience and skills:
In 1998, I began a journey into citizen science by starting COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team). With almost no knowledge of the history and legacy of public involvement in science, I leaped in (yes, ignorant; yes, moxie). Now 20 years later, I know alot more (!). I run a successful citsci program (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team - COASST) that balances natural and social science. It is 100% grant, contract and donor-funded. COASST simultaneously speaks to huge issues in natural resource management and conservation in the marine environment, from fisheries to climate change. We publish and we link our data to management and policy. At the same time, we dive deeply into what makes people join, contribute, and last. Most recently, our work has extended into consideration of how and why marginalized communities are, or aren't, involved. In the Pacific Northwest, where we work, these include tribal communities, fishery communities, and economically depressed communities. So, this is my passion. And my day jobs are: a professor at a major research university; and an associate dean in the largest environmental college in the country. Every day I live and breathe controversy and solutions; opportunities and networking; the greater good and the needs of the individual.

The CSA would like to build a board that represents a range of backgrounds. Please note your affiliation or experience with the following (Check all that apply.):
- College or University
- Citizen science project leader
- Citizen science researcher

The following lists experience or expertise that are particularly desirable for new board members to have. Please indicate if you have experience with the following (Check all that apply.):
- Development/fundraising
- Financial management
- Organizational governance

The CSA board would like to build capacity in the following areas: Development/fundraising, financial management, and organizational governance. With these in mind, what skills and what types of experience would you bring to the CSA board? (500 words or less):

I have raised over $15M in grant and contract funding in my career. I work with a team of development professionals to recruit dozens of donors to our College and University. While a small proportion of these are interested in my own program (COASST), most of this work is advantaging the larger organization. Wins include ongoing funding for conservational advancement for URM students nationwide, need-based scholarships for environmental science students, and "top-off" grants for graduate students to accelerate their research. A large part of my job as a professor has been management of the grant and contracts I have received, including both fiscal responsibility and personnel management. Within the Dean's Office in the College of the Environment, I am responsible for a budget focused on advancing new academic programs that can quickly become self-sustaining, excellent and growth-oriented. Under my watch we have created new courses, programs and degrees. At present I have 10 direct reports across two separate offices. At the height of my research enterprise, over 35 people were employed by my funded projects. My goals in all of this effort has been to (obvious) do the work, and (less obvious but more necessary) advance everyone in the skills, knowledge and practice of their craft, career and goals. Helping everyone advance moves organizations forward.

What is your vision for how CSA should serve the citizen science community? (500 words or less):
If science is going to survive, it must open its doors to the publics. Citizen science is one avenue, one door, to achieve this goal. CSA can be and should be a pivotal institution assisting both the research community and the publics in creating this reality. I want an association that strongly and intentionally reaches out to the research (academic, agency, NGO, industry) community. CSA needs these voices to be successful. We can, we must, be seen as a strong branch of the science enterprise, one that scientists want to embrace. At the same time, I feel strongly that we have both a chance and a responsibility to reform science by allowing all of the people - literally every person - into the science enterprise. What would science look like with a full complement of voices across all of the demographics in the world? Would we (scientists) ask different questions, or ask questions differently, or construct the way we conduct science differently? These are exciting, and scary, questions. And I believe that CSA should be at the forefront of answering them.