17 January 2019

SPE Young Member Outstanding Service Award Committee

RE: Suzie Queue

Dear Young Member Outstanding Service Award Committee:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Suzie Queue, who has served as the Chair of the Timbuctu Section’s Young Professionals (YP) Committee, a three-year commitment equivalent to being Chair of a full SPE Section, with a 15-member board and a budget of $12,000. Her service to SPE has been outstanding, so much so, that our Section honored her as our 2016 Regional Young Engineer of the Year at our annual awards banquet.

Suzie grew up in Ethiopia, where she lived without access to water or electricity. She would connect a 12V car battery to an old black and white TV set to watch with her family, and that sparked her interest in engineering. She received a full scholarship to Podunk University, where she earned a BS degree in electronic engineering. She has since earned two certificates in offshore technology from the University of Houston, and is finishing up her MBA at Rice this summer.

Suzie definitely has some serious technical skills. She worked as a Drilling Optimization Engineer with Acme Tools and helped develop a downhole sensor that can withstand intense drilling vibrations. The Acme Tools CEO awarded her the 2014 Technical Achievement Award for designing the Vibration-Resistant Sensor. Since then, she was promoted to Asset Manager in charge of the downhole product line, and now she is in charge of the New Technology Department, leading the development and design of five new products to be launched next year.

On the local level, Suzie started out on the YP Committee as Chair of the Annual YP Conference, which attracted 150 attendees. This is a big event, with multiple sessions on technology and soft skills and panel discussions, a poster competition and a networking social. The quality of speakers Suzie brought together was outstanding! She did such a good job, the YPs asked her to be co-chair the next year, then she started her YP leadership as Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair on the YP Board. The YP Chair also serves on the Timbuctu Section Board of Directors. Suzie won a Section Service Award in 2015. She is also one of the pioneers of our Section’s new Shark Tank Committee to promote innovation in our industry. The first Shark Tank event last year was a huge success, and this year it will be a two-day event with 8 panel discussions, an exhibition, and a golf tournament.

Some of Suzie’s volunteer activities on behalf of SPE include:

* Raised funds online for the Timbuctu University Student Chapter to attend ATCE in 2018.
* Volunteered and helped coordinate PetroBowl 2017.
* Served as Panel Moderator for the Annual YP Conference in 2016.
* Gave numerous Magic Suitcase presentations to elementary school students about oil and gas careers.
* Built bicycles with the YPs to reward middle school students for reading 100 books in 2015.
* Renovated a house with the SPE YPs for an elderly disabled woman through Habitat for Humanity.
* Represented SPE as a judge at the Science Fair from 2013 to present.

On the international level, Suzie has been very active in SPE’s Drilling System Automation Technical Section (DSATS), serving on the Data Quality Assurance Committee and the Digital Energy Skill Kit Committee. She organized the first Drillbotics Competition at ATCE in 2015 and led students on a tour of the ATCE exhibit hall during ATCE 2015. She also served on the YP Committee for the 2015 SPE/IADC Drilling Conference.

Suzie’s service extends to other organizations, too. She has chaired two committees on the Society of Women in Petroleum, and that organization honored her contributions to STEM initiatives, naming her Young Technical Professional of the Year in 2014. She has taught Sunday School for children at her church for three years, and served as Secretary of the Society of Women Engineers’ Student Chapter at Podunk University.

Here is the icing on the cake: While serving as YP Chair, Suzie reached out to SPE President about her plan to organize a workshop in Ethiopia, where the SPEI Board would be meeting. She wanted the youth of her homeland to be able to visualize the success that could be had if they followed her footsteps into the oil and gas industry. The SPEI Future Young Leaders Workshop was held in Ethiopia on March 15, 2018, and 160 students and young professionals from all over East Africa and the Middle East benefited from the workshop. It was so successful, the second SPE Future Leaders Workshop is scheduled to be held in Egypt on 13 March 2019, and SPEI plans to make Suzie’s idea an annual event.

This young woman has come such a long way in her education, her technical innovation, and in volunteer leadership of SPE and other organizations. Surely, her service to SPE on both the local and international levels should be recognized with this award.

Sincerely,



Jeanne M. Perdue

SPE Distinguished Member #0677450

Technical Writer, Occidental Petroleum

Former Chair, SPE Gulf Coast Section