

Patrick Miller's 3 nomination letters

Letter #1

Patrick brought collaboration to a new level when creating the TVAs. He established a team of MSU students, MilTech staff, and external research partners to conduct the TVA research and create a user-friendly deliverable format showcasing the results of the analysis. Christie Bell, of Christie Bell, Inc. provides IP analysis research for the TVAs. She wrote of Patrick, "When word reached me that Patrick Miller was MilTech's nominee for the 'Excellence in Innovative Service' award, the first thought was, 'of course, Patrick.' I have witnessed his willing mentorship to interns and experienced his balanced approach to teammates and clients alike; when he interacts under favorable or uncomfortable situations, he is steadfast in his practice; always measured, metered, and kind. He opens communications with courtesy and leaves them with gratitude. His skill as an process engineer is surpassed only by his natural ability to lead."

With MSU students, he devised a system to route who is doing what piece of the research and reporting to keep the team organized using the Nintex Process Platform software. Team members logon and select which technologies they'd like to research. In addition to bringing efficiencies to the research project, this tool allows the team to measure project process.

Tracking the project's process is also important to our clients. That is why Patrick created a dashboard in SmartSheet. Our clients can track the number of completed TVAs, those in progress, and the TVAs in the future pipeline by accessing the dashboard in SmartSheet.

MilTech has completed 64 TVAs since the TVA project launch in July of 2020. The TVA development has greatly impacted the MSU community, as well as the nation. Let's talk about the impact on MSU first. The TVA process provides an opportunity for MSU students to get hands on experience conducting market research and data analytics. Further, MilTech brings in revenue to MSU. In addition to the revenue generated by developing the TVAs, the TVAs have resulted in multiple follow-on research projects.

More importantly, the TVAs have had significant impact on the safety and security of the nation. The technologies evaluated by the TVA process help U.S. first responders, security operators, and warfighters do their jobs more effectively and safely. Biothreat detectors, food defense software, personal protective equipment for first responders, and security screening equipment are examples of technologies that have been through the TVA process. Research on these technologies help protect our communities.

In summary, Patrick's development of the TVAs supports MSU's strategic plan, "Choosing Promise", by creating a new and unique tool to evaluate technologies developed by our U.S. Government clients. The TVAs utilize partnerships to enhance the well-being of Montanans, and all U.S. citizens, through promoting the commercialization of technologies developed by the Federal laboratories to keep us safe and secure. This dedication to serving MSU's Mission to provide service to communities via innovation is why I'm proudly nominating Patrick for the 2021 Excellence in Innovative Service Award. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Shelly Stobierski
Information Research & Analysis – Team Lead
MilTech

Letter #2

I would like to submit this letter in support of the nomination of Patrick Miller for the Excellence in Innovative Service award. From my experience working with Patrick, I believe he is an excellent representative of the heart of this award and know certainly that he deserves recognition for his work. As I am writing this letter, I am itching to speak about Patrick's vital role in MilTech's TVA project. However, I know others have spoken to it in their letters. They have shared how central a role he played in developing the TVA, a tool that can be used by the government to make vital technology investment decisions that will impact all U.S. citizens. They have spoken to the collaboration he has created across a diverse team of experts to contribute to these products. They have hinted at the efficiencies he has gained introduced by designing the process to be replicable and scalable and by bringing in automation to increase work productivity. They have acknowledged the respect his work has gained, bolstering MSU's reputation and securing future contracts. I want to dig into all of this farther, but I will leave that to the other letters because I also want to share the opportunities and experiences for professional growth he has given me and others as a student employees.

I am studying Industrial and Management Systems Engineering. It is an impressively broad field, but I like to sum it up as three things 1) the business version of engineering, 2) the statistics version of engineering, and 3) the manufacturing support version of engineering. My academic career includes studies on project management, people management and leadership, automation, and process development. Since Patrick invited me to the project to help automate the processes in June of 2020, I have had many opportunities to learn to apply my academic knowledge:

- I gained experience in managing my own complex, long-term project with a customer, deadlines, setbacks, and practical implications.
- I learned of another field of automation that had not been discussed in my courses.
- I gained practical experience using business process automation tools.
- I better understand how to transform complex business processes into manageable processes.
- I gained experience mentoring and managing through the charge of another student who joined later in the project

I've spoken with other student employees who have also greatly benefited from Patrick's guidance in the TVA project. One student participated in calls with various government labs, coming to understand their technologies and recognizing several contacts. She was able to use the understanding she had gained to support her application for a full-time position at another government facility. Another student got tied into the work completed by one of the experts who contributes to the TVA. This has led to many other opportunities within MilTech for her and has shown her new areas of work that she wants to pursue. Other student employees have learned about countless cutting-edge technologies that they may be able to pursue in the future.

Through his consistent dedication and application of knowledge, Patrick has contributed to the professional development of several students, to the reputation of MSU, to the sustainability of an important business process, and to the successful and broad impact of government technology. For these reasons I am proud to nominate Patrick for the Excellence in Innovative Service award.

Regards,
Tessa Sybesma
Montana State University Student – Industrial Engineering
MilTech Project Delivery Associate

Letter 3

Thank you for making the opportunity to recognize deserving Montana State University staff possible. I'm fortunate to work with such an individual in Patrick Miller and believe he is an ideal candidate for the award in Excellence in Innovative Service.

Several years ago, I was meeting with my director to staff a program to assist the Department of Homeland Security (OHS) with commercialization of technology impacting homeland security operators (i.e., Border Patrol, TSA, emergency responders, Coast Guard). As you can imagine, the technologies these operators depend upon are critical to protecting and saving lives. I needed staff who could understand the gravity of the work, think critically yet creatively to develop unique solutions, and whom I could trust implicitly to do a thorough job. I have known Patrick for a number of years and we were fortunate to pluck him from one of his many worldly adventures to join MilTech as a core member of the team.

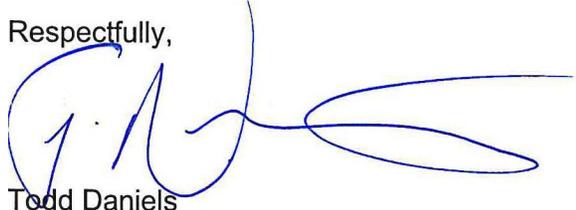
MilTech works with many Federal labs, including OHS and Department of Defense (DOD) labs, which spend billions of dollars developing technologies to improve the lives of operators and Warfighters. These labs are very good at developing technology concepts but often struggle with taking a hard look at what technology is viable as a reliable, commercially available product. Once onboard with MilTech, Patrick recognized that Federal labs have developed a backlog of vital technology where no amount of money was effective in making advancements. A quick, inexpensive, and effective tool to solve this problem simply did not exist until Patrick developed the Technology Viability Assessment (TVA).

Over the last two years, Patrick has been the architect, general contractor, and builder of the TVA. While the results of the TVA appear simple in nature, the development of the process, the resources required, and the execution is anything but simple. Patrick has worked with and mentored MSU students to develop the TVA template, create methods to manage and track the work, and guided the students as they review patents to create a Technology Overview. He has worked with MilTech and MSU Procurement to identify and assemble resources from all corners of America to provide the expert content for each TVA. He has worked side by side with Federal labs and partners to improve the TVA and help them understand the results so they can prioritize development efforts and be efficient with their time and money.

The impacts of the TVA that Patrick has created and fostered are already significant. MSU students working at MilTech are embedded in the process of helping to advance lifesaving technology emerging from Federal labs. MSU and MilTech have trademarked the TVA and secured millions in grant funding from OHS centered around the TVA and follow-on work it prescribes, increasing MSU's Research budget. MilTech partner companies, some from Montana, feel the economic impact directly as they are employed to provide expert opinions on lab technologies. Federal labs are now making better decisions with their time and money, reducing the time needed to get important technologies into the hands of those who need them.

When I stop to think about the impact of what Patrick has done with the TVAs, the depth and diversity are simply astounding - and this impact is happening right here at Montana State University. I know we are at the beginning of something great with the TVAs because of Patrick and will not be surprised when he innovates the next great thing, because that's just who he is. It is for these reasons that it is my honor and privilege to provide this letter of support for Patrick's nomination for the 2021 MSU Excellence in Innovative Service Award.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Daniels

Associate Director, Solution and Program Development
MilTech