

# 2021/2022 Winter ACE Award Winner

## *(Acknowledging Commitment & Excellence)*



**Jiyoung Won**  
***Assistant Director of Administration***  
***Epidemiology***



Here a summary why Jiyoung was selected as the winner for the 2021/2022 Winter ACE Award:

Jiyoung Won's colleagues expressed their deep gratitude for her ability to go well beyond her charge of leading by example and selflessly supporting the needs and well-being of her department and its members throughout these challenging times. In 2019, the Director of Administration resigned. This vacancy brought on its own challenges and additional effort, however, "Jiyoung saw a need and took immediate action." She "stepped up in a tremendous way" and assumed the responsibilities of this role on top of all of the work she was already doing .... Her colleagues described the transition as "seamless."

Months after taking on this incredible endeavor the COVID-19 pandemic surged, which delayed the hiring of a permanent Director. However, Jiyoung stayed committed to the increased responsibilities for a year and a half until a new Director was appointed. She played a crucial role in transitioning staff to remote work, running a department during an "intense, complex, and fraught time" for a group of researchers "on the frontline of the pandemic", and developing a return to office plan. She did it "with grace, empathy, compassion and incredible work ethic."

Despite the difficulties and obstacles, Jiyoung always found a way to ensure her colleagues' felt supported, such as finding meaningful ways to connect staff during the lock-down and implementing mental health days that staff were encouraged to use. Her staff describe her as "a remarkable person who manages with compassion and respect" and "everyone's go to person." One colleague noted that she "always goes above and beyond to make sure everyone's work/life balance is healthy." Jiyoung even organized and implemented an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to serve as a vehicle for creating more awareness, inclusivity in the workspace and recruiting efforts, provide training, and programming to promote interracial and intercultural awareness and understanding.

As one colleague summarized, "there are no words to adequately describe or encapsulate the contribution Jiyoung has made to the Department of Epidemiology... she is an invaluable asset to this Department, this School, and this University."