

**Idaho State**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Nursing**

Kasiska Division of Health Sciences  
921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8101 Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8101

**Primary Mentor Letter**

**Applicant: Melody Weaver, PhD, FNP, ACHPN: Translational Research Scholar**

**Mentor: Mary A. Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAHB**

I am writing to express my pleasure in serving as Dr. Melody Weaver's mentor. Dr. Weaver is a highly motivated new investigator and very deserving of this ITHS Scholar Award.

**My Relevant Experience in Research and Mentoring**

I am a behavioral nurse scientist with a research focus on community interventions promoting health in vulnerable populations including the elderly. My scientific expertise lies in health promotion, intervention research, conducting focus groups, and qualitative and quantitative analysis in underserved and vulnerable populations. I have a demonstrated record of accomplished and productive research projects in an area of high relevance for health issues relevant to rural and vulnerable populations. I have secured more than \$10 million in extramural funding to support research and projects related to health promotion for vulnerable populations working with multidisciplinary teams. Over the past 20 years, I have been the PI, Co-PI, or Co-Investigator on several NIH awards from the NHLBI, NIA, NIDDK, NINR, and NIEHS. In Dr. Weaver's proposed project, I will use the expertise of my prior grant work and my clinical background as a public health nurse to provide the guidance and support Dr. Weaver needs to accomplish all aspects of her grant.

As the Director of Nursing Research in the School of Nursing, Division of Health Sciences, and over my career, I have mentored many PhD students and many junior faculty to the successful completion of grant submission, grant funding, completion of dissertations, and dissemination of findings. I am particularly proud of the fact that all the students I have mentored as chair for their thesis or their dissertation have all published their thesis or dissertation results in peer reviewed journals. I have also successfully mentored previous junior faculty for Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS) Rising Stars award, Dr. Susan Tavernier who is now planning an R grant submission based on her ITHS Rising Stars grant. In addition, I have mentored junior faculty for the Mountain West Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network pilot grants resulting in peer reviewed publication.

**My Role and Commitment to Dr. Melody Weaver**

As the Director of Nursing Research, I am committed 100% to Dr. Weaver's success. Dr. Weaver is a new assistant professor on tenure track that started in August of 2017. She has spent the last 35 years in clinical practice and has gained outstanding experience as a PhD prepared Nurse Practitioner. Now Dr. Weaver wants to use her vast clinical expertise and combine with her PhD training to answer research questions that are derived from her clinical practice. The exploratory study she is proposing is the first step she needs to take in developing her program of research and moving towards a K or R series grant. I am especially excited about her work because it is closely related to my program of research. My role as the Director of Nursing Research is to mentor junior faculty and PhD students. Dr. Melody Weaver is the perfect applicant for this grant. This funding would facilitate her career success.

Signed,



Mary A. Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAHB  
Director of Nursing Research