

Personal Data Record Form

Residency Waiver Required

Profile

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

All appointments to City Boards and Commissions are made by the City Council through the Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions. **APPLICANTS MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE VACANCY AT A TIME. DUPLICATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** Please complete this application in its entirety. Your application will be forwarded to the City Council. Fill in all applicable blanks on the form. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to City Council. All applicants are encouraged to contact the Council members and introduce themselves.

New Applicant or Current Member

☒ New Applicant

Heather

First Name

Wojton

Last Name

Email Address

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Home Address

Street Address

City

Primary Phone

Institute for Defense Analyses

Employer

Suite or Apt

State

22079

Postal Code

Alternate Phone

Director, Research Quality and
Chief Data Officer

Job Title

Applicants may only apply for **ONE** board/commission/committee at a time. DUPLICATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Commission On Information Technology: Submitted

Type of Position/Role

Chamber of Commerce Rep

Demographics

Do you currently live in the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how long?

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Board or Commission for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain

Interests & Experiences

Statement of Interest/Why You Should Be Appointed

I am looking for ways to give back to Alexandria. I've spent the last 7 years of my career assessing technologies for national security organizations and currently work closely with IDA's CIO to deliver an information architecture and computing capabilities that will help our researchers answer challenging national security questions efficiently and effectively. I am passionate about using technology in a responsible and ethical way to advance our community and society more broadly.

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied

Upload a Resume

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please state your department, job title, and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain:

Attendance Requirements: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled business trips and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused. In light of the aforementioned statement, will you be able to attend at least 75% of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867?

☒ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.):

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, PhD University of Toledo / Toledo, OH / 2011-2015 RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGY, B.A. Marietta College / Marietta, OH / 2007-2011 SPANISH & LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, MINOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (Please list titles and duties for the past five years):

DIRECTOR, RESEARCH QUALITY & CHIEF DATA OFFICER Institute for Defense Analyses / Alexandria, VA / 2021-Present Oversee research quality for 500 research staff and establish and execute the Data Strategy for the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). IDA operates a \$300M nonprofit and two Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDC) that work at the intersection of science,

Heather Wojton

technology, and economics to answer challenging national security and science policy questions for the federal government. Actively evolving IDA toward a data-centric information architecture built around a single, extensible data model and semantic technology to make data flows more resilient, efficient, and future-ready. Spearheading the comprehensive review of the Systems and Analysis Center, IDA's largest FFRDC, in order to maintain its sole source \$200M contract with the Department of Defense. Built and strengthened IDA's data governance capability by setting data management standards that are applied to 500-600 research projects per year, making research, data, and expertise easier to find and reuse. Collaborated across research divisions to develop and disseminate standardized quality management processes for the technical review and publication of IDA projects. Automated these processes to increase efficiency, transparency, and measurability. Built a first of its kind organization-level partnership with the Virginia Tech National Security Institute to improve IDA's access to academic expertise in areas relevant to national security, permit staff collaboration, and foster innovation. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL EVALUATION DIVISION Institute for Defense Analyses / Alexandria, VA / 2020-2021 Supported the Division Director in leading and managing IDA's Operational Evaluation Division (OED), maintaining day-to-day relations with IDA's largest sponsor. Oversaw efforts to test and evaluate the human-system performance of existing and emerging defense technologies, engaging with the broader national security and academic communities to address challenges posed by novel technologies and spearheading scientific advancements to help the U.S. overcome these challenges. Developed the annual research program proposal for OED, securing more than \$50M in federal funding to support 150 researchers. Built and maintained relationships with 7 academic institutions to increase OED's access to scientific expertise and to partner with researchers in order to advance methods for test and evaluation of defense technologies. Worked with stakeholders from across OED to devise and implement a data management procedure that supported the needs of project teams collecting and analyzing data for performance testing of 240 defense systems. Partnered with IDA's largest sponsor to develop a strategy for operational test and evaluation of defense technologies. The strategy was adopted in 2021 and guided infrastructure investments, methods and policy development, and training. Cultivated a relationship with the Joint AI Center (JAIC) to support test and evaluation of AI-enabled systems and Responsible AI. The project tripled in funding and effort in its first year. TEST SCIENCE LEAD Institute for Defense Analyses / Alexandria, VA / 2018-2020 Built and led a multi-disciplinary team of 20 researchers within OED that applied the latest advancements in the statistical, behavioral, and data sciences to improve the state of the art in test and evaluation of defense technologies. Oversaw research to engineer novel methods where shortfalls existed in test design and analysis, modeling and simulation, and human-system performance. Secured federal funding for the test science research program that advanced the state of the art for test and evaluation of defense technologies. Grew the research program from \$1.5M - \$3.5M and grew the sponsor base by 200%. Designed and observed testing for the \$428B Joint Strike Fighter Program, identifying areas for improvement in human-system performance. Presented findings to senior government officials and drafted inputs for a congressional report. Mobilized the test science team to consult on test design and analyses for 240 defense systems per year, spanning air, land, sea, and information environments. Oversaw the development and quality management of 80 products that advanced the state of the art in test design and analysis, modeling and simulation, and evaluations of human-system performance and artificial intelligence for defense technologies. Co-chaired the Defense and Aerospace Test & Analysis Workshop (DATAWorks), a 3-day workshop attended by ~300 national security analysts from across the Department of Defense and NASA. DATAWorks aims to strengthen the T&E community around rigorous scientific approaches to test design and analysis. TECHNICAL ADVISOR, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Institute for Defense Analyses / Pentagon / 2017-2018 Advised a presidential appointee on scientific methods for testing and evaluating defense technologies. Advocated for rigorous testing across the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Military Services, negotiating with program offices and Service test agencies to ensure sufficient data to defensibly characterize human-system performance. Reviewed 23 operational test reports on performance of defense technologies for Congress and the Secretary of Defense and 24 non-Congressional reports for stakeholders across the T&E and acquisition communities for objectivity and scientific rigor. Led a cross-organizational team representing OSD and the Services in developing new policies for measuring and evaluating human-system performance of defense technologies during operational test events, which became effective in 2019. Negotiated language in DoD Directives 5000.01 (The Defense Acquisition System) and 5000.02 (Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework) on behalf of the Director, Operational Test & Evaluation within OSD. RESEARCH STAFF MEMBER Institute for Defense Analyses / Alexandria, VA / 2016-2017 Designed tests to evaluate the human-system performance of defense technologies and analyzed data from those events. Coached and mentored

colleagues and government sponsors on how to implement rigorous scientific approaches to test design and analysis. Developed novel methods to overcome shortfalls in existing test design and analysis methods. Negotiated the test strategy for the \$9B Advanced Pilot Trainer by using statistical test design methods to demonstrate that fewer test resources (e.g., pilots, flight hours, aircraft) were required to characterize human-system performance. Developed and validated an instrument to measure military operators' trust in automated systems. The instrument (TOAST) is now widely used within the Department of Defense and across academia. Built a coalition to increase human factors expertise within the division, growing the cohort of human factors experts from 1 to 4. Provided analytical support to a presidential appointee, consulting on test designs and analyses for nearly 30 defense information systems, aircraft, and tactical vehicles. RESEARCH ANALYST NC Dept of Commerce / Raleigh, NC / 2015-2016 Designed research studies and conducted analyses on workforce development and infrastructure for the State of North Carolina. Worked with state and local officials to identify economic trends across the state to inform workforce and infrastructure investment decisions. Designed and conducted a statewide survey of employers' workforce needs. Selected a representative sample of employers using probability sampling and analyzed data from the survey using statistics. Conducted quantitative analysis to inform investments in broadband across the state. GRADUATE RESEARCHER/INSTRUCTOR University of Toledo / Toledo, OH / 2011-2015 Conducted research on how people's social environments and cognitive processes interact to effect health behavior. Instructed undergraduate students on the foundations of psychological science and psychological research methods. Published 6 academic peer-reviewed articles and presented research at local, regional, and national conferences. Taught 4 undergraduate courses on research methods, ranging in size from 25–100 students. Managed a research lab and mentored 2–4 research assistants per year.

REFERENCES (Please list names and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application).

Non-Discrimination Data Supplemental Questions

By submitting this application electronically, I hereby certify that all information contained herein is true and complete and that the transaction will be subject to the Virginia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act..