

ROBERT M. TOBIAS CERTIFICATE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *of* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GET TO KNOW THE NOMINEE



HEATHER FARBER-LAU

Assistant to the Budget Director (detail assignment)
US Department of Agriculture

Heather Farber-Lau has served in the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) since 2010. Most recently, she was hand-picked by AMS senior leadership to help rebuild the AMS Budget Division, using the skills and lessons learned during the Key Program experience. Throughout her career at AMS, Heather has earned a reputation as a successful “internal business consultant,” helping programs improve their organizational effectiveness. Heather has supported several initiatives and staff teams during times of intense leadership transition and cross-Agency process improvement projects. Heather previously supported the AMS Grants Division when their leadership team changed, led the development of the Specialty Crops Integrated Operating Network (SCION), and successfully applied for a Technology Management Fund loan to fund this critical project. She managed the development of a new operating system for the AMS Domestic Hemp Production Program. Before joining USDA, Heather worked for several Twin Cities-based employers, including HealthPartners, Lake O’Lakes, and

the Girl Scouts, where she gained valuable experience that she brought to the public sector. She earned her MBA from the University of St. Thomas and her BA in Sociology from Grinnell College. Heather is the Agency’s only American Society for Quality’s certified Six Sigma Black Belt. Heather also holds a FAC P/PM Senior Level certification. When Heather is not at work or volunteering, she is busy with her two daughters, husband, dog and two cats. She enjoys being outdoors, knitting, golfing, and playing games.



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