**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

Jennifer McDonald. United States Patent and Trademark Office

1. What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Supervisory Patent Examiner. 2.5 years

1. Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

Oregon State University, Molecular Genetics

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Yes. 1 year at National Eye Institute (National Institutes of Health)

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

Manage a group of patent examiners to ensure timely and quality examination.

1. What are the keys to success in your career field?

Good communication skills; adaptability; integrity.

1. What were the most important factors in choosing your career path and current employer?

Daily activities that align with my strengths (i.e. writing, researching); opportunities for professional growth; work-life balance; independence.

1. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?

I volunteered for several job details in training other employees. I applied for and enrolled in leadership training. I participated in the USPTO Mentoring Program, which helped me to identify potential career opportunities and to make new connections with colleagues in various areas of the USPTO. I joined an affinity group and volunteered my time to some group tasks.

1. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

Do your current job to the very best of your ability. Then, seek out growth and enrichment opportunites to hone in on what you really enjoy. Be fearless. Be curious. Ask questions. Be true to yourself.

1. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice?

Work/Life balance at the USPTO is fantastic. It is one of the most influential factors in my decision to stay in my current position.