

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD

The *ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD* identifies and recognizes staff members' outstanding performance and contributions to students and the Division of Student Affairs. To receive this award, employees must support and reinforce the values of the division and exhibit a high level of commitment, initiative, cooperation, and dedication in their job responsibilities. In keeping with our goal of *Helping & Caring*, recipients of this honor must demonstrate an attitude of excellence, teamwork, and go Above and Beyond the expectations of their job duties. Additionally, employees must demonstrate competence in at least three of the division's six values: *Learning, Student Success, Excellence, Integrity, Diversity, and Community*. *These values guide us* as we carry out our mission and the vision of the institution



NOMINEES FOR 2014

Christa Bacon, 3 years of service

Budget and Operations Coordinator, Career Center

Christa brings a special mix of operations and budget savvy blended with career development knowledge. She is not only committed to providing the Career Center team the very best resources and advice but also supporting the success of students and alumni. Her helping and caring demeanor along with her "can-do" attitude makes her a tremendous asset. She is nominated on these values: Learning, Student Success, Excellence, and Community.

Jared Blanton, 6 years of service

Operations Support Coordinator, Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

As a result of his direct interactions with students and parents, Jared suggested various methods for improving the delivery of financial aid, which included converting FASO documents to be ADA compliant and fill-able. Also noteworthy is that Jared researched and taught himself the process while fulfilling his daily workload. His insight brought about improvements to all students, especially those with disabilities. His values include Student Success and Excellence.

Amber Brady, 2 years of service

Residential Life Coordinator, University Housing Services

Amber served as the Chair for Student Staff Training and the SJSU delegation Advisor to the Northern RAP Conference. She was the sole advisor this year to the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), continued the "Leadership Dialogues" collaboration with Student Involvement. In her tenure, she has been dedicated to serving students, creating learning opportunities that challenge and support, and developing strong relationships across the university. She is a consummate professional who has stepped up and taken on many challenging tasks.

Maria Brewster, 28 years of service

Operations Support Staff, Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

Maria consistently gives 150% to her job. Every day she can be found going out of her way to help students. Her meticulous work on files helps the work flow faster. At the end of the day, 99% of all problems are resolved under Maria's leadership. Her contribution, dedication, and 'no-complaints' attitude are her greatest assets.

Rachel Delucchi, 9 years of service

Assistant Director, Admin & Conference Services, University Housing Services

Rachel played a key role in the implementation of Housing's new residential management database, Star Rez. She coordinated the Returning Resident Sign Up Process as well. With both projects, Rachel found ways to bring improvements to current administrative processes in order to increase the effectiveness of some of Housing's administrative procedures. Most importantly the improvements raised the level of service provided to residents. All the aforementioned contributed to Rachel's going above and beyond her duties to ensure success.

Veronica Diaz, 16 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Veronica is a part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. Her work is complex and requires incredible attention to detail. She performs well in this role and supports the hardworking and dedicated team toward its daily success. As part of the team that has to be familiar with the University Guidelines and interface with department chairs, professors/faculty, counselors/advisors, students and even students' parents, Veronica goes above and beyond.

Rich Dillon, 3 years of service

Assistant Director of Leadership, Student Involvement

In the three years that Rich has been a staff member, he has revived a stagnant leadership development program, created new programs such as ENGAGE and Leadership Dialogues, collaborated with faculty, staff, and students from across campus, and inspired dozens of student leaders. He avails himself on evenings and weekends to work with students and is passionate about issues of social justice. His willingness to work on projects and programs that are technically outside of his job description and his commitment to student success qualify him for this award

Blanca Escoto, 18 years of service

Administrative Analyst, Counseling Services

Blanca is the hard-drive of Counseling Services. Her knowledge, skill, vision and commitment are critical to the overall function of the department. Her excellence is demonstrated by the MANY projects and people she manages with skill and her dedication by the MANY hours of overtime she works to keep the department going strong. She goes above and beyond!

Sandy Gecks, 2 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Sandy was a part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. As an evaluator, Sandy's work was complex and required incredible attention to detail. She performed well in this role and supported the hardworking and dedicated team toward meeting its daily duties. She stayed late and work long hours to ensure tasks were done.

Linda Ho, 12 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Linda is part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. Like many of the other evaluators on her team, she pays incredible attention to detail. As an evaluator she is dedicated and hard-working – with a will-do and can-do attitudes. She is part of a team of employees who would stay late on weekdays or at times come in on weekends to review and evaluate graduating seniors' records to meet deadlines.

Andrei Ingalla, 13 years of service

Interim Assistant Registrar, Office of the Registrar

His colleagues describe him as the definition of excellence and an invaluable asset to the institution; to some, he is a mentor and an inspiration. Motivated by the success of others, Andrei serves as a humble and compassionate colleague on the hard-working team in the Registrar's Office. His quiet demeanor gives him the ability to teach without pretension and allows others to approach without fear. He avails himself selflessly to help his team members and goes above and beyond to ensure students are served.

Kristine Kirkendall, 7 years of service

Assistant Director of Recreational Activities, Associated Students

The Computer Center serves many students on a daily basis and most of their tasks require sitting and working on computers and laptops. The department wanted to become more active. As they were looking into resolutions, Kristine and her awesome team came to the rescue. Without hesitation, Kristine organized and arranged for them to play basketball every Friday. This has helped them tremendously because they are now more active and healthy. As a result, they can continue to provide excellent service to SJSU students.

Moira Kolasinski, 5 years of service

Employer Services Lead/Specialist, Career Center

Moira is responsible for activities targeted at employers interested in recruiting students for internships and full-time employment. Most recently, she managed the coordination of seven employer connection events serving over 7,500 students and 500 employers, as well as filled gaps as liaison to the Colleges of Business, Humanities & Arts, and Social Sciences during the Center's reorganization. She consistently aims to educate students so they can learn how best to approach career decisions and the workforce. Her heart is in her work and serving our students is always her #1 priority. She continues to go above and beyond her scope of responsibility to ensure student success.

Karla Larson, 35 years of service

Academic Advisor Coordinator/Counselor, Accessible Education Center

Karla has worked at the Accessible Education Center (AEC) since 2001. She continues to contribute to the success of the WorkAbility IV program by continuously going above and beyond to serve students with disabilities who are clients of CA Department of Rehabilitation. She works with DOR counselors to ensure students meet their goals and timelines to continue getting financial and vocational support through the program. Additionally, Karla works with integrity to support and challenge students to help them reach their academic and career goals.

Roselia Lobato-Morales, 12 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Roselia is part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. Her work is extremely complex and requires incredible attention to detail. As an evaluator, she has to be familiar with the University Guidelines, interface with department chairs, faculty, counselors/advisors, students, and parents. As a team member, she is dedicated, hard-working, and flexible – with a will-do and can-do team-player's attitude.

Jennifer Morazes, 4 years of service

Educational Counselor, Counseling Services

Jennifer works tirelessly to promote student success on an individual, campus-wide, and societal level through her work with students. Her work on the First-Generation program, GENERATE, and research and participation in national conversations about factors contributing to student success make her stand out as a dedicated and committed practitioner. She embodies integrity and excellence through her work ethic, passion for the students, commitment to social justice, and ability to go above and beyond to ensure students succeed.

Priscilla Moreno, 3 years of service

Customer Service and Program Assistant, Student Involvement

Priscilla is the first point of contact in a high-volume office. She does not just point patrons to another office but helps them find the answers they seek. Priscilla always steps up to help with additional duties for all programs within the office and is the first person in the office to volunteer for additional tasks; she has an eagerness for learning it all. Her patience and commitment to helping others make her an asset to the office and the SJSU community.

Julie Murotsune, 6 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Julie is part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. Like her team members, she goes above and beyond to assist with complex tasks in the office. She has a can-do, will-do attitude to her work and would stay late on weekdays and come in on weekends to review and evaluate graduating seniors' records to meet deadlines.

Daniel Newell, 3 years of service

Job Development and Marketing Specialist, Career Center

Daniel's work primarily focuses on the external community of employers and community organizations. He brings to the Center and the University adeptness at marketing students and the university as a whole. Recently, he reached out to dozens of community organizations throughout San Jose and Silicon Valley to ensure employers seeking to hire students for part-time, full-time, and internship positions are thinking SJSU first. He has gone above and beyond to create and develop three major programs this year: SJSU Spartan Staffing, Job and Education Development Initiative (JEDI), and Silicon Valley Internship Summit committee.

Vicky Ochoa, 12 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Vicky is part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team. She is dedicated, hard-working, flexible, and carries a will-do and can-do team-player's attitude. Due to heavy workloads in the department, Vicky would stay late on weekdays and come in on the weekends to review and evaluate graduating seniors' records to meet deadlines.

Evelyn Ramos, 13 years of service

Career Advisor and Information Specialist, Career Center

Evelyn has stepped up into a new role this year taking on new and additional duties. She continuously creates and expands career resources and services that contribute to student success along with supporting University retention and graduation initiatives. Her positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond make her stand out as a great contributor to student success.

Itza Sanchez, 9 years of service

Administrative Analyst, Enrollment Services

Itza has taken on a leadership role within the Chican@/Latin@ Student Success Task Force and has done a great job in keeping the group organized. She has a history of campus that many in the group can appreciate and she faces concerns in a calm and rational manner, all while keeping student success at the core of any events that are proposed. She encourages all on the task force to build community among group members so that under-represented students feel the support necessary to their success.

Socheat Seng, 1.5 years of service

Scholarship Coordinator & Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

Socheat has compassion for people of all ethnicities. In both professional and in personal environments, she spends time with many people of different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and brings them out of their cocoon and/or situations, listens to and talk to them, giving them encouragements, comforts, knowledge, information to better themselves whether financially, educationally, and/or personally. She goes above and beyond to care for and give to individuals through her numerous volunteer efforts.

Wiggys Sivertsen, 46 years of service

Faculty, Counseling Services

Wiggys is best known for her endless advocacy of LGBT community, both on and off campus, and that has been a constant throughout her 46 years of dedicated service on campus. She also models what it means to build allies and collaborators across diverse groups, and will readily pick up the phone to hold campus administrators accountable, but she manages to deliver her messages in a way that is heard despite the sometimes difficult content. She is well connected in the community and is often consulted on finding the best off campus resources for students. Wiggys readily provides her cell phone number to faculty, staff, and administrators on campus, and she has been known to spend each night for weeks to help a student group process a significant loss in their community.

Bonnie Sugiyama, 6 years of service

Director, LGBT Resource Center & WRC

From her powerful and empathic listening skills, her program development and management skills, her IT and systems knowledge to her readiness to jump in and participate on all levels from the Drag Show to Spartans on Safety, Peers in Pride to supporting female Veterans, Bonnie stands out as a committed and supportive collaborator and contributor, who goes above and beyond. She is everywhere and brings her best to all she does.

Kevin Tran, 8 years of service

IT Operations Coordinator, Associated Students Computer Center

No matter what the problem is Kevin has a positive attitude about a resolution. He responds quickly to requests and gives his staff all the credit. He is a regular cheer leader when it comes to recognizing a co-worker's accomplishments. He inherited the lead position in his department after his boss left a year ago and he has made the transition seamless. His selflessness and commitment to his work and staff do not go unnoticed.

Kristy Wilce, 20 years of service

Assistant Director Financial Ops, University Housing Services

Always supportive, never intimidating: two qualities you will find in an exemplary supervisor, such as Kristy. Her matter-of-fact style handles situations skillfully and quickly with no indication of blame or shame. Her cheerful, positive manner makes her a role model for all to learn from and qualifies her for the above and beyond honor.

Renee Yuen, 3 years of service

Undergraduate Graduation Evaluator, Office of the Registrar

Renee is a part of the Office of the Registrar's Undergraduate Graduation Team that works on extremely complex tasks. She is a great team player who is dedicated, hard-working, and flexible. She has a will-do and can-do team approach to her duties, and a willingness to go above and beyond to assist the team in meeting deadlines.