



Golden Nugget Awards – Jan. 2018

Area 1

Kim Gray

Nominee's department: Office of Undergraduate Education

Reason for nomination: Kim Gray is the program manager here at Academic Success and Advising for University College. It's always amazing and inspiring to watch her energy and enthusiasm. Kim makes sure that every person that walks through our door feels welcome and gets the help they need and deserve. She embodies great customer service! Kim keeps things running and running smoothly. She juggles a million different things at once...such as managing the front desk while being admin support to advisors, planning events for the UGE, our office, and FWS students. She is the building liaison, which means when things go wrong, she gets it handled. She takes care of technology here so when anyone can't get their computer to work, she's the one we depend on. She sets up offices for new employees and makes sure everyone is comfortable in their space. She also makes sure everything over here stays looking great! She is thoughtful and good to all of us. When she isn't here, she is missed by everyone! She always has a cheerful word, a cute riddle, or maybe a song to brighten your day! That means a lot! There is so much that Kim does for everyone over here, I wish I could say it all here. She's very deserving of a Golden Nugget!

Howard Simms

Nominee's department: University College

Reason for nomination: Howard went above and beyond to assist a frustrated student on a busy SOAR day. With back to back appointments, Howard took the time to see the student, spent a long time helping him sort through his complicated advising situation and ensured that the student left with a useable schedule that would enable him to progress into his chosen major. We always appreciate Howard for everything that he does to assist students, but on a particularly hectic day, with a particularly frustrated student, it was even more appreciated!

Area 2

Claire Kirby

Nominee's department: Undergraduate Admissions

Reason for nomination: Claire is an amazing director and a constant source of support for our entire department. We all admire her determination and leadership within the office. She is dedicated to providing opportunities to our students and staff alike. We are honored to have her as a supervisor here in Undergraduate Admissions. Enjoy your golden nugget with a glass of wine. You deserve it!

Area 5

Kristy DeSantis

Nominee's department: Housing and Residence Life

Reason for nomination: Kristy DeSantis recently transitioned positions in Housing and Residence Life and has done so with pride and grace! She works above and beyond not only in the current position, but to help others in the department. We are fortunate in HRL to have the opportunity to work with someone like Kristy who genuinely cares about helping others and wants to ensure the success of the department. In December, Kristy assisted the department with position searches, reference checks, and interviews. Kristy saw a need for the department and was willing to go above and beyond to help with its success. Kristy also attended a conference through NASPA in which she had the opportunity to represent UNC Charlotte on a national scale. During this conference she learned about herself as a leader, brought leadership applications back to UNC Charlotte, and brought a renewed energy to the department. Kristy has taken recent initiatives to get people in our department more involved in campus groups that not only enhance the team morale, but also allow us to get to know other departments across campus (and strengthen those relationships). Kristy DeSantis truly deserves to be recognized with the Golden Nugget Award

Area 10

Alyson Ebaugh and Jules Keith-Le

Nominee's department: Human Resources

Reason for nomination: In November, our office asked for guidance with our employees to help them open up about a recent loss as well as changes in their work environment. Alyson and Jules not only met with our group but they helped to build a Memory Board which took a few days to complete. They also consolidated recommendations for the Management Staff to consider. We appreciated their unfailing attention to detail. They were extremely professional and caring. Their immediate assistance has helped to provide closure for the team and to give us a better understanding of our group and to focus on what their true concerns are. I know how busy they are but they took the time to provide assistance to another department. I cannot thank them enough!

Area 12

Kelly Freshcorn

Nominee's department: Facilities Management (Recycling)

Reason for nomination: Facilities Management has two social events each year, the Spring Fellowship and the Holiday Party. Over the past five years, I have asked Kelly Freshcorn to use her personal camera to capture highlights of these events. Each time she willingly agrees. It may seem as these photos are just snapshots. However, they are a chronicle of events in our department's history, which we can look back on or pull from when preparing our quarterly Facilities Focus newsletter, PowerPoint presentations, determining how things changed over time, to show new employees what it's like being a team member of Facilities Management, or just for the joy of reminiscing. Thank you Kelly for your time, effort, and use of your personal equipment. It truly makes a difference.

Area 18

Jocelyn Westpfahl

Nominee's department: School of Architecture

Reason for nomination: Jocelyn has been an enormous help to me with the tasks I have to accomplish on a day to day basis. During busy times, my stress level is that much lower knowing I have someone like Jocelyn to rely on. She is proactive in her work, often thinking ahead to things I haven't had time to tackle yet. She accomplishes tasks at lightning speed. I'm so grateful to have her in this office!

Jessica Thomas

Nominee's department: School of Architecture

Reason for nomination: Jessica has been an enormous help to me during busy times when there is a lot of work. She is proactive and will often ask me what things she can do to help, especially when she notices that I might be overwhelmed. She asks lots of questions and always wants to do her best. I am new to my position, and having this kind of help on a day to day basis makes working here wonderful. We are so lucky to have her in the School of Architecture!