



Golden Nugget Awards – July 2020

Area 1

Willis City

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Wills has been an incredibly effective partner during the COVID pandemic, as our department and college respond to numerous (sometimes daily) requests for expert comment from a variety of local and national media organizations. Wills can be counted on to provide sound advice about content, message tone, and community engagement to ensure that our work continues to enhance the University's image.

Area 5

Carolyn Hart

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: During COVID-19 this employee had her direct report leave the University. That made Carolyn the sole person answering and diverting calls/requests for our helpdesk. She did this tirelessly and maintained a level of efficiency that was unbelievable given the circumstances surrounding her. I am so grateful for her effort and appreciate the level of care she took with our clients while still maintaining her other duties. I do not know how we would have gotten through this time were it not for her dedication to the job.

Area 7

Vikki Cherwon

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Vikki is the Research Officer for the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), she supervises post-award services, and directly provides pre-award support for the busy, CHHS Research Administration Office. She is a phenomenal employee. She's patient and a consummate professional. The College has recently experienced a significant uptick in proposal submissions (both external and internal to the University). Even with this uptick in activity, coupled with the ongoing global crises and associated demands of teleworking, Vikki has remained calm, skilled and assured. I highly recommend Vikki Cherwon for the Golden Nugget Award.

Ludmila Balteanu

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Ludmila has stepped into a critical space in providing virtual 1:1 advising to our HSMT students during the COVID pandemic. She works tirelessly to ensure that students receive the guidance that they need for timely degree progression. Her commitment to students and their well-being is a tremendous asset to our program.

Sashi Gnanasekaran

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Shashi has demonstrated exceptional competence and professionalism in coordinating faculty search processes and and preparations for a transition in the department's administrative leadership, amidst the disruption of the COVID pandemic. She is consistently an integral component of our ability to put our best foot forward as a department.

Julie Howell

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Julie has been the point person for the development of our unit's phased reopening plan for Fall 2021. She has carried out this leadership role with exceptionally strong organizational skills and professionalism, engaging team members and working to achieve consensus while responding to a plethora of evolving guidance about protocols.

Tamesha Williams

Relationship to nominee: While I am not Tamesha's immediate supervisor, I oversee the group.

Reason for nomination: Tamesha is a Post-Award Specialist in the busy CHHS Research Administration Office. She juggles complicated awards for the director of the Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI; funded, in part, by a contract with the Mecklenburg County Health Department) and for research faculty connected with APHI, for the dean of the College, and for the many research faculty in the Department of Public Health Sciences. As a post-award specialist, she does all business transactions for both internal and external awards. With COVID-19, she has had to think out-of-the-box in order to keep the research moving forward. When we needed support for one of the other units, she stepped up. Her work demeanor, even during these stressful times, is calm and professional. I can't say enough about Tamesha.

Area 9

Terrie Burris

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Terrie Burris has been my ultimate hero during this COVID-19 experience. I am the admin to the Controller's Office group. However, I have been working remotely since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Terrie has gone above and beyond to assist me (on more than several occasions) whenever a situation arises that requires a presence on campus. She is always approachable, pleasant, and willing to come to my aide. I would just like to take this opportunity to recognize her for all her efforts and to say thank you. I am one grateful admin.

Area 10

Jeremy Golden

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: So often, we throw the term "team" around loosely and so often, people miss the fact that this University is made up of many sub-teams in one overall team with a greater mission and purpose. Our relationship with Jeremy Golden and the team from Mail Services has always been a true partnership, and during the displacement of this pandemic, Jeremy has, once again, demonstrated his commitment to team and to the overall mission of the University. Undergraduate Admissions would like to express our overwhelming gratitude to Jeremy for his efforts to ensure that, in the hardest possible environment, we did not miss a beat and we continued to be able to serve our students in the best possible way. Jeremy is a true team player and continues to demonstrate the values that we hold most dear. Thank you Jeremy for your support and dedication to the students we serve!

Area 15B

Eric Klein

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Eric has led the efforts planning, and executing major utility plumbing projects on campus saving the University over \$100k. I can say that because these projects were quoted by off-campus vendors to that tune, and Eric and his crew of fellow coworkers performed the same service for under \$10k. This applies for a sewer repair project behind the Cone University Center, a sewer repair in front of the HRL building, and discovery of destroyed storm pipelines in the quad that resulted in the University being able to hold a contractor accountable and having them perform the work as warranty service saving the University from footing a bill necessarily. He has done all of this as a leader, and example of the highest standards of advanced technician in a world class FM department.