



Golden Nugget Awards – March 2020

Area 1

Michael Mitchell

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Mike is a post-production powerhouse! With a background in news, he comes to us from a high stakes, fast paced, world. Mike hit the ground running, diligently working through projects, one after another, ensuring our Faculty have the highest quality academic media to present to their students. We are glad to have Mike as a part of our production team. We want him to know he is appreciated and that his hard work does not go unnoticed. Mike truly is an asset to our team and the University. Thank you for your hard work, Mike!

Howard Simms

Relationship to nominee: Fellow Niner

Reason for nomination: Howard did an outstanding job bringing together academic departments on campus to meet with regional community college advisors during the 2020 Transfer Symposium. This collaborative effort is valuable to transfer counselors and prospective transfer students.

Area 2

Julie Burt

Relationship to nominee: Fellow Niner

Reason for nomination: Julie is always ready to help a fellow Niner in need when it comes to getting help with anything Registrar related. She is a valuable member of the campus community!

Kimberly Hight

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Kim always goes out of her way when she sees a person in need of help. She does what she can even if it cost her personal time and energy. I would like to recognize her because she brings compassion, concern and genuine caring to our department. She does this not just for Students also for Co-workers.

Tamara Hinton

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: A student called in panicking because his parent was refusing to do the PLUS loan and he was very short on his balance for the semester. I gave him the instructions for a reconsideration and began working with everyone to get him funding. We were able to increase his federal aid to maximum available for the year and Tamara through her research also found circumstances that helped his funding. Because he was doing a reconsideration, he then began to contact Tamara EVERY step of the way. She thoroughly stayed on top of his situation talking to him almost everyday. He ended up with enough funding to attend for the semester. Kudos to Tamara for going above and beyond. It is because of workers with compassion like this, differences are made!

Kaitlin Mason

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Circumstances had us down to one Loan Specialist at peak payment time in December. Being that I had to focus on processing alternatives loans, my co-workers stepped in and did ALL they could to take the load off of me. Kaitlin entered all alternative loans into the system every morning. Ashley and Jessa both processed the PLUS loans and Jessa did loan change requests even while she was attending a conference in Vegas. I am very thankful to be a part of an awesome team!

Jessa Morgan

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Circumstances had us down to one Loan Specialist at peak payment time in December. Being that I had to focus on processing alternatives loans, my co-workers stepped in and did ALL they could to take the load off of me. Kaitlin entered all alternative loans into the system every morning. Ashley and Jessa both processed the PLUS loans and Jessa did loan change requests even while she was attending a conference in Vegas. I am very thankful to be a part of an awesome team!

Ashley Peyton

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Circumstances had us down to one Loan Specialist at peak payment time in December. Being that I had to focus on processing alternatives loans, my co-workers stepped in and did ALL they could to take the load off of me. Kaitlin entered all alternative loans into the system every morning. Ashley and Jessa both processed the PLUS loans and Jessa did loan change requests even while she was attending a conference in Vegas. I am very thankful to be a part of an awesome team!

Area 4

Arjun Aneja

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Arjun Aneja created the new 49erNext Interest Form, which supports our 49erNext program expansion goals. We are grateful for his creativity, patience, and eye for details. We are super excited about the look and functionality of the 49erNext Interest form and our 49erNext partners have provided positive feedback. Thank you, Arjun, for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate you!

Heather Cummins

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Heather is such a wonderful colleague who helped us tremendously for the establishment of our office website. She is kind and very knowledgeable with great experience. She is also very patient to learn our needs and meet all of them. We really appreciate her help.

Josh Jaggars

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Josh Jaggars led the creation of a beautiful, user-friendly and integrated 49erNext Interest Form, which enables additional institutions to come on board with 49erNext. Josh is a fantastic collaborator & problem-solver, a forward thinker and always keeps the student in mind while considering the impact to the various systems behind the scenes. We have received positive feedback from our 49erNext partners and we could not be more thrilled about the new form. Thank you, Josh, for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate you!

Area 8

Tanya Miller

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Tanya is a very hard worker. She helps me with so many tasks. She is creative, intuitive, speedy-fast, and thorough. I am so glad she is a part of our team. She's funny, a wonderful baker, and a good-hearted person.

Michelle Prasad

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Michelle is a very hard worker. She is in one of the busiest departments, yet she works diligently to make sure things get done and done correctly. She is focused, determined, professional, and so much fun to be around. You're doing awesome, Michelle!

Jordan Rizzo

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Jordan is amazing. She is extremely detail-oriented. When there was an unexpected situation, Jordan took the lead and straighten everything out. Her numbers came out perfectly! She is professional, focused, and such a joy to work with--the department is extremely lucky to have her.

Jocelyn Westpfahl

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: She has been a great asset to our team and is always willing to pitch in during times of need.

Area 9

Alicia Bartosch

Relationship to nominee: Friend

Reason for nomination: Alicia has shown simple kindness to a student who hangs out around our part of campus, and that kindness makes a huge difference to that student's life. That kindness, for all the buzzword that it seems to be these days, is something I see so rarely in as genuine a form as it manifests with Alicia. She is thoughtful, caring, and selfless with her time in a way that asks for no recognition, so what better reason to recognize someone?

Area 12

Tomasa Bonilla

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Tomasa (Lila) is the 2nd Lead Tech for her zone and she works diligently to ensure that her shift has all areas of her zone covered during her shift. Lila sometimes does multiple jobs during her shift voluntarily due to call outs and vacation leave. She is always willing to help in any way possible. She leads by example.

Johnnie Doyle

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Johnnie volunteers to help out his team anytime that there is an event in any building located within his work zone. He has proven to be a valuable asset to both his co-workers and his supervisor.

Rich Jedynek

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Rich was out on sick leave due to an accident, but was still concerned about his team and his work zone. He called regularly to check in and see how things was going. Rich also wanted desperately to get released from his doctor so that he could return to his job. He has shown time and again how truly dedicated he is to his team and supervisor. Rich shows his team what it means to be a leader.

Area 16

Jacob Falkiewicz

Relationship to nominee: Contracts & Grants Central Research Office (GCA)

Reason for nomination: Jacob is always such a joy to work with, always professional, patient, and supportive no matter what the research issue is. Everyone in the College of Engineering loves working with him, and he really knows his job! As I retire the end of April 2020, I will surely miss working with him. Keep up the awesome work Jacob!

Angelica Martins

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Angelica has taken leadership to a whole new level for the office of Research and Economic Development. She started just 5 years ago and seamlessly transitioned into Biosafety Compliance Officer position for the past three years after completing her post-doc with the Department of Biology. The past few years, the Department of Compliance has felt many forms of growing pains but Angelica stuck with them through it all, keeping the department afloat and improving 'customer service' where she could. She works many long hours and has a very respected reputation in the department and among cross-functional departments. After losing 3 co-workers in the Department and finally the Director, she was undoubtedly named the interim Director of the Department after her predecessor was not up to the challenge. She continues to push through the everyday challenges of putting the department back together and also hire new positions to fill the critical roles. She is well spoken, fair, and understand. She is always there to help others rise up while remaining very humble.

Area 18

Greer Friedrich

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Greer has been an invaluable help in all regards since I started as Associate Director last summer. She is technically the Executive Assistant to the Director, but has provided support and advice to me as well. In particular, during the recent search for a new Director of the School of Architecture, when I served as the chair of the search committee, she went above and beyond in coordinating and facilitating the whole process, including helping with multiple evening receptions. The whole process went smoothly thanks to her and her efforts went a long way towards recruiting the best candidate to accept the position.