



Golden Nugget Awards – Sept. 2017

Stephanie Bird – Area 2

Department: University Career Center

Reason for Nomination: I recently hit my one year anniversary here at UNC Charlotte and because of Stephanie I can truly say this has been a year of wonderful achievements, amazing experiences and tireless support. Stephanie oversees multiple staff members and provides amazing coaching to the career advisors who have not been in the profession as long. Her door is always open even though her email is normally bursting at the seams due to overseeing all career assessments on campus, advising University College Students and planning a national conference. With all of this she does it with a smile and she truly cares for each of us in the office. For example, I just recently returned from a trip with the Levine Scholars and she had my office decorated as a welcome back and baked me cookies. She is such an amazing co-worker and friend.

Megan Downey – Area 2

Department: University Career Center

Reason for Nomination: Megan has been with the Career Center for a little over a year and has made a tremendous impact on this department and campus as a whole.

In her short time at UNC Charlotte she has started the Professional Clothing Closet, a partnership with the Jamil Niner Food Pantry, consisting of a workshop on career branding and the opportunity for need-based students to receive free professional attire. The Clothing Closet has been a huge success and grew to 4 events open to men and women this past Spring. In addition to starting the Professional Clothing Closet Megan has also spearheaded the Career Center's new Meet Up initiative. This is a new program where students meet in small groups to discuss career related topics with a Career Advisor, allowing more students to reap the benefits of the Career Center's services when peak times can cause longer wait periods for students seeking one-on-one assistance. Megan has also started the Career Fair Crash Course series as well as LinkedIn week each fall and spring semester. She has also co-coordinated the International Student Career Fair Prep Workshops and a new International Student Networking event in the works this spring. She also served as a LeaderShape Facilitator this past May, volunteering a week of her time to mentor and promote growth in UNC Charlotte student participants.

The incredible fact about Megan is none of these programs or initiatives were part of her job description. This demonstrates Megan's work ethic, drive and initiative to be a stand-out professional in the field of Career Services and here at UNC Charlotte. Megan is an exemplary role model to the students she serves and her colleagues. She makes everyone better at their job because of the example she sets as a young leader and professional. Megan is highly deserving of the Golden Nugget award because it is rare to find a colleague that goes so far above and beyond the call of duty and holds such high standards to her work. She is highly deserving of this honor.

Elona Ellis – Area 2

Department: Residency Determination Office

Reason for Nomination: We, in the EM Communications Studio, want to give a golden nugget to Elona for always being the sunshine of our day! Every time we walk by her office, Elona has a smile on her face and a cheerful greeting. She recently moved out of Cedar and we miss her beautiful personality!

Zack Newsome – Area 2

Department: Office of Undergraduate Admissions Reason for Nomination: Zack took one for the team and

stayed late on the Friday before Labor Day to wait on the delivery of the freshman brochures. They were delivered after 5pm and he volunteered to stay and accept the delivery. He is a team player and a great co-worker.

Leana Zona – Area 2

Department: OASES

Reason for Nomination: Leana Zona, an academic advisor and communications specialist for the Office of Adult Students and Evening Services, has been instrumental in the research, development, and maintenance of the ANSWER Scholarship Family Friendly Room in the Atkins Library. This concept of a family-friendly room is a new and courageous endeavor on our campus!

UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library and the Office of Adult Students and Evening Services (OASES) in partnership with the off-campus ANSWER Scholarship program have established the family-friendly study room as a designated safe space for adult students and their children (ages 0-12) to thrive educationally. It is her hope that with the establishment of this room, adult students will feel support from the university and from donors who demonstrate that their lives and responsibilities as students at UNC Charlotte are valued. Leana researched and selected the materials, toys, and technology in the room to encourage learning opportunities for children to enhance motor skills and facilitate literacy skills. She supports the theory that children's involvement with their parents on a college campus supports the idea of positive modeling for children's future educational opportunities. Leana is most deserving of the Golden Nugget Nomination as she continues to work collaboratively with the Atkins Library staff to ensure access to the current space and to facilitate the development of future safe spaces in the library.

Lori Crump – Area 9

Department: Account's Payable

Reason for Nomination: She is always willing to help!

Paul Dilgard – Area 11

Department: BES

Reason for Nomination: Paul has been instrumental in reporting near misses and other safety related issues to the safety committee. He has shown great concern for the health and safety of not only the staff, but the faculty and students as well. We appreciate all his efforts concerning the safety on campus and want him to know that his efforts did not go unnoticed.

Solomon T. Franklin – Area 12

Department: Facilities Management

Reason for Nomination: Mr. Solomon T. Franklin, Building Environmental Services and Recycling's Central Operations Manager, is a creative genius.

As a member of our Facilities Focus newsletter staff, his role is to design the cover for the newsletter which makes it look like a world-class magazine. When he arrived in Facilities Management in 2012, we found out Solomon had a degree in Graphic Design and we asked his help with the newsletter. He created the template I currently use and helped me learn how to use Adobe InDesign so I could complete the majority of the newsletter on my own. Solomon volunteers his time to assist me with this publication to ensure it aesthetically pleasing. I am always impressed with his design ideas. Seeing the final draft of Issue 62 this morning (8/17/17) prompted this overdue recognition. The appearance of the cover makes the reader want to open it to see what is inside. Solomon does a great job of peaking the reader's interest. I greatly appreciate you, Solomon.

Ryan Reichert – Area 15A

Department: Fire Systems

Reason for Nomination: Ryan came up with the idea to start a preventive maintenance plan for Residence Life Smoke detectors by using the Fire Panels' technology to identify 'Almost' dirty smoke detectors which will greatly reduce the amount of service needed on the systems, and also greatly reduce the amount of false alarms in the residence life buildings.

Ryan Reichert – Area 15A

Department: Fire Systems

Reason for Nomination: Ryan came up with the idea to start a preventive maintenance plan for Residence Life

Smoke detectors by using the Fire Panels' technology to identify 'Almost' dirty smoke detectors which will greatly reduce the amount of service needed on the systems, and also greatly reduce the amount of false alarms in the residence life buildings.

Chris Schultz – Area 15A

Department: FM

Reason for Nomination: Chris took care of a mouse in my office and went above and beyond the call of duty in how he cleaned up, checked back with me and in general help ease my anxiety over the situation. Really kind and well done! THANK YOU!

David Smith – Area 15B

Department: Facilities (Zone 2)

Reason for Nomination: As an Engineering Professor, I wish to nominate the whole Zone 2 crew for all of their help. I've painted some giant canvasses and hanging these is no small task. The latest is 7' tall and 10' wide and it took an enormous amount of effort and several location attempts before it finally happened. The whole team is great and David is a great boss.

Morgan Meehan – Area 17

Department: Student Union

Reason for Nomination: During a meeting, I came to understand how much extra Morgan has been doing to ensure that nothing falls through the cracks while, the Union is down several professional staff members. Morgan has taken on a lot of extra work and it shows how talented she is!

Bridget Johnson – Area 17

Department: Rec Services

Reason for Nomination: Bridget has been beyond amazing when it comes to keeping Belk Gym and our rec fields clean and shining. She works tirelessly to ensure the UNC Charlotte community has a top notch facility to use for their recreation needs! Thanks Miss Bridget!

Levi Morgan – Area 18

Department: BCOB

Reason for Nomination: In just one year of working here, Levi has made himself an irreplaceable part of our team. He is the glue that hold us together as he works hard, keeps things running smoothly, and supports every single office project. When he's out on vacation, everyone notices, because he is so essential to everything we do. Levi is a very positive person and is extremely patient and understanding, especially when working with our students. He is the first person they come into contact with when they come to our office and he basically serves as the front line for dealing with stressed or disgruntled students. He takes it all in stride and he has been able to put out quite a few fires and many answer questions beyond what would be expected of him.

Over the past year, our office has gone through many changes including a move to a temporary office and back into a construction zone. Levi never once complained or expressed frustration, but went with the flow and operated to the best of his ability to serve students. This involved working from a make-shift desk and hanging directional signs to guide students to our check-in space and then changing them almost daily as construction zones shifted.

You can tell Levi really cares about his job, the students, and his coworkers. He's very involved around the office and takes an active interest in people's personal lives. As well as a good coworker, Levi is a good friend to all of us now. It is for all these reasons and many more that I'm excited to nominate him for a Golden Nugget Award!