

Golden Nugget Award Recipients - August 2022

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
8/1/2022	Catherine Daniels	Undergraduate Admissoins	2	As a new member of our Transfer Credit team, Catherine has already proven an invaluable colleague. Because her teammates were busy navigating an increased workload and multiple process changes, Catherine stepped up for the team in other ways. Catherine happily volunteered to take on phone calls and management of the Admissions inbox when the office had a need. Her positive personality, team mindset, and care for her coworkers has been a bright spot through a challenging summer. We are grateful for her work and are so glad that she is a part of our Transfer Credit team.
8/1/2022	Cecilia Dontoh	Undergraduate Admissions	2	As a member of the Transfer Credit team, Cecilia has navigated a summer full of process changes and a workload that increased while the size of her team decreased. She navigated these changes with grace, patience, and an incredible drive. The entire UNC Charlotte community owes Cecilia and her team a debt of gratitude because their commitment to get the job done directly corresponds with the University's ability to meet enrollment goals. Thank you for your work and for being such an integral part of our team.
8/26/2022	DeErra Bradley	Facilities Management - Human Resources	2	DeErra has been a tremendous help to me with HR related matters. Following the departure of other HR staff, staff recognition and Kronos responsibilities went to her. Another responsibility she absorbed was serving as the primary safety monitor for the Facilities Management side of the building. She is willing to assist and does so effortlessly. She even volunteered to co-host Bingo at our staff appreciation event in May. She is a gem. When one of her colleagues was out for a month, she coordinated a retirement reception for the first time for the engineering unit which she was not aware of until two weeks before it needed to happen. She also attended and helped to serve cake and punch. DeErra is a team player. She helps where she can and asks questions for clarity so we all are on the same page. I am honored to have crossed paths with Ms. Bradley. She is remarkable! Sincerely, Beverly
8/1/2022	Le'Aira Hames	Undergraduate Admissions	2	As a member of the Transfer Credit team, Le'Aira has navigated a summer full of process changes and a workload that increased while the size of her team decreased. She navigated these changes with grace, patience, and an incredible drive. The entire UNC Charlotte community owes Le'Aira and her team a debt of gratitude because their commitment to get the job done directly corresponds with the University's ability to meet enrollment goals. Thank you for your work and for being such an integral part of our team.
8/26/2022	Sophia Olson	Facilities Management - Human Resources	2	Special Thanks to Sophia and those who worked with her to create a comical yet heartwarming video of well wishes shown during my retirement reception held on August 25, 2022. I am humbled and grateful for the time and effort she and her colleagues invested in this super great feature! Sincerely, Beverly
8/4/2022	Gena Smith	Office of Disability Services	3	Gena Smith provides expert guidance and support to both students and faculty. She navigates tough situations with patience and grace. She is extremely knowledgeable and seeks to find solutions that serve students and faculty alike. Each time I have an opportunity to work with Gena, I learn more about the roles and responsibilities of faculty in providing access to all students.
8/26/2022	Pamela Duff	OneIT - Facilities Information Systems	4	Pamela is a tremendous asset to the University. She is responsive and willing to help far beyond what is expected of her. Her customer service and technical skills are superb. In the many years she has worked in Facilities Information Systems, she is always pleasant, smiling, provides good suggestions, clear instructions, screen shots of processes, and indicates where we can find information in the future. As I prepare for retirement, I have contacted her in advance letting her know of a new hire in our office. She made sure everything was taken care of so there is a smooth transition with the laptop and other technical needs. She is a valuable employee, and I appreciate her dearly. She deserves a raise or two! Thank you Pam! Sincerely, Beverly
8/1/2022	Casey Remspecher	Housing and Residence Life	5	All of her work on DA recruitment and selection.
8/1/2022	Donovan Cyrus	Housing and Residence Life	5	All of his work on RA recruitment and selection.
8/16/2022	Jasmine Chappell	Housing and Residence Life	5	I have really enjoyed getting to know Jasmine recently. I think she is a great co-worker and even better person. She works very hard in the position and constantly advocates for her students and team.

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8/16/2022	Jennifer Hamblin	Housing Facilities and Maintenance	5	Jennifer has been really helpful in guiding the BES team as we transitioned Martin from Summer to Fall Operations. I knew that if I needed something or needed help, I could count on her.
8/16/2022	John Ennis	Lockshop	5	Lockshop was bombarded recently but has been super helpful and punctual through it all. They always step up to the plate when needed and work very hard. I really appreciate John and all the other locksmiths.
8/16/2022	Nadaja Patterson	Housing and Residence Life	5	Nadaja has only been here a short time but continues to shine in so many ways. I really appreciate her enthusiasm for the position. In addition, she constantly advocates for her fellows staff members and the team she supervises.
8/1/2022	Sabrina Banjo	Housing and Residence Life	5	All of her work on RLC and Hall Council
8/16/2022	Dana Tweed	CHHS Office of the Dean	7	If we could nominate people for sainthood, I would nominate Dana Tweed. Like most in CHHS, she has experienced a tremendous turnover, leaving her almost single-handedly responsible for the roles of multiple people, in addition to her complex, highly-valued role. I can attest that she has been willing to answer late afternoon and early evening questions. She has worked on weekends to meet impossible deadlines, engaged in the timely process of trying to locate and hire qualified replacements, and served as a sounding board, all while juggling a family and her daughter's wedding. Most importantly, she did it with a smile and was never dismissive. The College is very fortunate to have her, and I feel lucky to have someone with her insight and institutional knowledge at the helm of business operations.
8/22/2022	Devrim Ozdemir	College of Health and Human Services	7	Devrim has been extremely helpful to the School of Social Work by helping us compile data needed for our annual report to the Council on Social Work Education. To obtain the necessary data, Devrim had to work with multiple other units on campus and with many different systems. He created a website that now gives us ongoing access to the data we will need to report in future years, making the process much more simple in the future.
8/16/2022	Janet Baker	Social Work	7	The SON experienced a great deal of faculty and staff turnover in the last 2-years. With the loss of our entire administrative support team, we had no one knowledgeable about completing the arduous part-time faculty hiring process. Janet stepped in to assist us. We are so grateful for her positive attitude, understanding of our limitations, and willingness to help us with the 25+ part-time faculty hires we have each semester. Additionally, she has been willing to answer questions for our new administrative team members in hopes of preparing them to take over this critical role. We couldn't have made it without her help.
8/22/2022	Janet Baker	School of Social Work	7	Janet has repeatedly been called upon to help fill in for staff vacancies in other units across our College, picking up other responsibilities as needed to ensure necessary duties get covered. She has also had to help train multiple other staff members when hired by other units in our College. Janet has repeatedly had a great attitude about this and is always willing to help. She is a wonderful team player who does whatever is needed to be sure necessary functions get done, even when that means she has tasks added to her plate above and beyond her regular responsibilities.
8/16/2022	Khadija Khalid	School of Nursing	7	Khadija joined the School of Nursing at a time when we had no other administrative associates to help acclimate her to the intricacies of her role, many of which require establishing relationships and learning complicated processes. She worked in this manner for over a month, never complained, always sought out answers, and completed any task she was assigned. Her positive, can do attitude is a breath of fresh air and we are so happy she has joined us.
8/16/2022	Franci Hamilton	Academic Affairs	9	The SON experienced a great deal of faculty and staff turnover in the last 2-years. With the loss of our entire administrative support team, we had no one knowledgeable about completing the arduous part-time faculty hiring process. Franci stepped in to assist us. We are so grateful for her positive attitude, understanding of our limitations, and willingness to help us with the 25+ part-time faculty hires we have each semester. Additionally, she has been willing to answer questions for our new administrative team members in hopes of preparing them to take over this critical role. We couldn't have made it without her help.
8/26/2022	Katharina Findlater	Business Affairs	9	Thank you Katharina for serving on our executive assistant selection committee. You are a no nonsense person with a keen sense of awareness and observation. We knew you would help us manage this process quickly and efficiently. Thank you especially for your patience as we unexpectedly had 199 applicants that UHR had to review before we could begin our time-sensitive process. Thank for your flexibility as dates, times, and formats for the preliminary interviews and onsite interviews changed at a moment's notice. We respect your time and willingness to serve. Very sincerely, Beverly
8/29/2022	Larry Barfield	Receiving and Stores	9	Larry is a great asset to the University. I was talking about moving some boxes in a storage room that was on the top shelf and I could not reach them nor lift them. He met me at the storage room and moved the boxes for me. He goes above and beyond for the University and employees all the time. In this day and time it is hard to find someone friendly and helpful. Thanks Larry for being a Awesome Team member. Lora

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8/8/2022	Chelsea Ortiz	Identity, Equity and Engagement	11	As a colleague and campus partner, Chelsea has helped "model the way" in regards to helping Student Affairs Marketing and Communications plan to provide marketing support services to our campus partners that program during the academic year. We are grateful that she was able to get SAMC the bulk of her Fall programming initiatives well ahead of our requested deadline, helping ensure that we are able to provide her marketing materials ahead of her review date!
8/15/2022	Janay Crosland	SASS	11	As a newer Niner to the SASS team, Janay has fulfilled various roles as the SASS team experienced some changes and influx of student interactions. Janay has been with the team since April and within these three months as provided exemplary service to students and parents, built valuable connections with campus partners, and provides levels of care amongst the SASS/Dean of Students team. She continues to go above and beyond, displaying a keen sense of her dedication to the success of our students.
8/26/2022	Kevin Ashiono	HRL	12	I see this fellow every morning on my way to my car in the deck when I get off work in the mornings. I am an assistant supervisor in HRL Security. This fellow is the most kind gentleman I have encountered. He speaks every morning, and is always smiling. He has the most pleasant attitude. He is always busy doing his job. It is refreshing to see another employee that cares about his job. I do not know him personally, and had to ask him for his UNCC I.D. to get his name. He truly is a fine example of what all of us should strive to be like.
8/15/2022	Emily Brown	CAPS	13	Dr. Brown has been instrumental in the leadership of CAPS' outreach efforts and has taken lead on coordinating CAPS' annual Fall Festival, co-developing and co-coordinating a new peer education program, and being an active member of CAPS' leadership team.
8/16/2022	Francesca Gray	SHC Lab	13	Fran is wonderful in the Lab and goes the extra mile to provide our students with excellent laboratory testing. She will often stay longer into her lunch break or at the end of the day to prevent any inconvenience to our students. She is also very compassionate and puts our often anxious students at ease when drawing their blood.
8/16/2022	Gail Warrick	SHC Nursing Department	13	Nurse Gail is always willing to help the Providers she works with and this month there were a few students who needed extra care and she was there for them. She really cares about the students and her coworkers while promoting peace.
8/16/2022	Jan Hardin	SHC Lab	13	Jan has worked extremely hard during the Pandemic to design and initiate an interface between Cameron Lab & the SHC Lab, ensures we are Always Clia certified and AAAHC Approved. She is very approachable and informative. While she could retire, she stays on because she cares about us and wants to be able to train her replacement.
8/17/2022	Tracey Copeland	Mail & Packaging Services	16	Tracey is always so helpful and goes above and beyond the call of duty.
8/22/2022	Ashley Carter	Student Involvement	17	Ashley (and CAB) did an amazing job with the first Gold Rush events with the CAB Bustdown and CAB Block Party this past weekend. They had over 1,000 students at the first event and almost 2,000 for the second event. These events provided First Year (and returning) students with a great way to meet new people, have fun, and get connected to the University. The event was run so smoothly and the new location for this year was a huge hit. Thank you for ALL that you do Ashley, you deserve this recognition.
8/22/2022	Jamar Whitfield	Student Involvement	17	Jamar (and CAB) did an amazing job with the first Gold Rush events with the CAB Bustdown and CAB Block Party this past weekend. They had over 1,000 students at the first event and almost 2,000 for the second event. These events provided First Year (and returning) students with a great way to meet new people, have fun, and get connected to the University. The event was run so smoothly and the new location for this year was a huge hit. Thank you for ALL that you do Jamar, you deserve this recognition.
8/25/2022	Joe Harvey	Popp Martin Student Union	17	Joe has taken on additional work during one of the busiest times of the year and is doing so while displaying a positive attitude and 'let's make it happen' mindset. He is modeling great behaviors for his student staff and for his coworkers. I appreciate his efforts and dedication to ensure the success of our operations.
8/25/2022	Josh Brown	Popp Martin Student Union	17	Josh has worked double duty for much of the start of the academic year. Not only has he continued to do his regular work but he has taken on the additional responsibilities of Building Manager and event setups as we work to hire more students -- sometimes even for our opening shifts at 6:30am! I appreciate his dedication and how he is modeling active leadership to his staff and students.
8/29/2022	Liliana Pinto	Student Union	17	Short staffing issue, First week of the school years, We have an over 10000 Student in and out for eat and shop in enjoy of the Student Union. Liliana has shown great work ethic to completing her daily tasks in her assigned building. Everyone has noticed how well she cleans her area and the extra lengths she takes to complete them. All week I only have 2 staff working, Liliana is the true team player.
8/29/2022	Rex Kearney	Student Union	17	Great team player, We has short staffing issue, First day of the school years Rex when gone above and beyond the He duty, and coming work on He day off.
8/25/2022	Stephen Snipes	Popp Martin Student Union & Cone University C	17	Stephen has taken on the additional task of working numerous events and activities as part of Gold Rush week. He is constantly on the move and working from event to event in order to provide excellent customer service and ensure that our events are successful. His efforts and expertise to make all of the events happen these past couple of weeks, and to make the events happen in upcoming weeks, is noticed and very appreciated.

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8/3/2022	Lock Shop	Lock Shop	15 A	I want to recognize the hard-working employees in the Lock shop. They are always helping everyone on campus as required by their jobs. However twice in the last few months they have went above a beyond in helping the Controller's and Financial Services offices. They have stopped doing their regular scheduled job and come to our rescue. I want all the employees in Lock shop to know how much we appreciate the great work they do and how much we rely on them. You all are an asset to the University. You are a role model for everyone to follow in customer service. Thanks again Lora
8/22/2022	Steve Fazio	Facilities Management	15 A	Steve noticed something that everyone else missed. That something turned out to be the key to solving a problem that could have shut-down the new Science Building. Steve noticed that the fire hydrant that repeatedly failed testing was a smaller size than normal. He then reported this finding to the team. Once the smaller hydrant was replaced with a standard size hydrant, we were able to pass our last fire safety test. Without this observation the University may have pursued far more difficult avenues to solve the problem. This saved the University more than just money.
8/8/2022	Todd Pulley	General Trades / Renovations	15 A	Todd recently assisted me with a campus-wide safety project, installing new signage on all refrigerant alarm monitors and mechanical rooms. He was extremely professional and excellent to work with. He was even able to work around some last minute changes brought down by the state fire marshal. The signs went up quickly and easily and working with him was great!
8/26/2022	Cheyenne Holmes	Facilities Management	15 B	<p>Cheyenne gathered digital images from various locations and created a PowerPoint 30+ slide presentation from scratch. The presentation showed reflections of my 22 years of service at UNC Charlotte during my retirement reception held on August 25, 2022. Not only did this make the occasion memorable for me, the presentation was requested by another colleague who stated, "Those were great memories".</p> <p>Thank you Cheyenne! Sincerely, Beverly</p>
8/22/2022	Jason Bernstein	Facilities Management - Engineering	15 B	This employee recently identified a discrepancy in our campus's storm water charges resulting in an annual reduction in storm water charges of over \$375,000 and a refund of \$1,138,864.34. The work required to identify this discrepancy was significant, requiring deep engineering analysis of multiple sources of data and cooperation between multiple entities (internal & external). The employee managed this process entirely while keeping leadership informed. In addition, the employee is working the NC DEQ to ensure a portion of this annual utility savings can be used for future sustainability projects, resulting in even further reduced utility cost savings!!!
8/26/2022	Rich Steele	Facilities Management	15 B	<p>Rich is a dynamic supervisor. We have worked almost seamlessly together. He has a manageable pace so I was able to keep up with his requests and prepare for what he needed next. He is thoughtful leader and supportive of our immediate office, the department staff, and our initiatives. We matter to him and it shows.</p> <p>I truly appreciate him accepting the position of our associate vice chancellor. I am blessed to have served as his executive assistant for the past year.</p> <p>Teamwork makes the dream work! :-)</p> <p>Thank you Rich, Respectfully, Beverly</p>
8/26/2022	Tammie Lyons	Facilities Management	15 B	<p>Special Thanks to Tammie for coordinating my retirement reception which was held on August 25, 2022. New to the university, she built relationships with catering staff, reservations staff, and internal FM staff to collaborate, plan and execute a memorable occasion. I am humbled and grateful for the time and effort she invested in addition to her other responsibilities.</p> <p>Sincerely, Beverly</p>