



# Golden Nugget Awards – June 2020

## Area 1

### Brittany Kicklighter

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Brittany has done a magnificent job coordinating the stewardship thank you calls for the many donors to the Student Emergency Relief Efforts, and in doing so, advancing those donors who want to learn more to her fellow Gift Officers. Just recently, in one follow-up call to a first-time donor, she secured a gift of \$25,000 for the development of a Gold Rush Grant, additional annual Gold Rush grant scholarships, and support of the Student Emergency Relief Funds. She's enthusiastic, cooperative, cordial, and well-organized. She has fit in well in a new position designed to be a perfect match.

### Ali Dubois-Merchant

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Ali has juggled her regular work schedule as a Leadership Gift Officer with intimate involvement as our Advancement Division's liaison with the Student Emergency Relief efforts. She has a major role on the committee and has done incredible work and service to the University by reviewing hundreds of student applications for grants from that fund. The stories are heartbreaking and real. In doing so, she has shared stories with us about the ever-growing need and that has provided us the fodder to relate to donors and prospects in our respective portfolios to read out for more gifts. In short, she is working diligently and doing so effectively.

## Area 2

### Brenda Sawyer

Relationship to nominee: Colleague

Reason for nomination: Brenda has always been supportive in answering questions and researching students' records pertaining to residency. She is prompt and thorough when answering inquiries that I may have regarding students' records. I really appreciate all of her help!

## Area 3

### Barbara Howard

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Going above and beyond in helping me adjust to my new role. Taking the time to be thorough with training and caring as a fellow Niner. Love Barbara!

## Area 5

### Carla Hines

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: For the last 16 years, Carla Hines has managed the housing assignments process through the addition of new buildings and renovations of others, staff and leadership changes, and now the uncharted waters of COVID-19. Through it all, she has remained HRL's expert on occupancy management. As our liaison to invaluable campus partners across Academic Affairs, Athletics, Admissions, Disability Services, and Student Affairs, Carla has worked carefully and intentionally to balance competing needs, always with students' best interests at the forefront. Year after year, she has worked her magic to help us meet or exceed our occupancy goals while also maintaining top-notch customer service. And, she's done all of this (and more) with a smile on her face despite some serious health challenges. You would be hard-pressed to find a harder-working, more knowledgeable, or funnier colleague. She is truly an extraordinary member of the Housing and Residence Life Team and I am honored to work alongside her.

## Area 6

### Tanya Hunt

Relationship to nominee: Supervisor

Reason for nomination: Tanya has always went above and beyond in regards to what she does for her CLAS family but during this transition to working remotely she has surpassed what any of us could have expected. She has done this with grace, a positive attitude, and a smile. The entire CLAS advising team has come together and proven what they are capable of during difficult times, but none of it would be possible without Tanya. She has worked tirelessly and accomplished more than what seems possible given the short amount of time and lofty goals presented to us. As a department, a team, and a family we find success relying on each other, but it all begins by building upon the foundation that Tanya has laid before us.

## **Area 11**

### **Ashley Sisco**

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Ashley, is the lead project manager for the reorganization, move, and remodel of the FM offices from the first floor to the second floor. Ashley was handed this project from another underperforming team member with limited time and budget to complete. Ashley has not only made these transitions a success but has done so while dealing with the challenges of Covid-19. She always has a smile, works overtime to see things done right, and is constantly checking into make sure the customer is always satisfied.

Ashley is a great example of Niner who takes on tough challenges with a smile and overcomes any obstacle in her way. She would make a great candidate for a golden nugget award.

## **Area 14**

### **Katharine Palmer**

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Katharine continues to go above and beyond in her role as Director of Basketball Operations for the Men's Basketball Team. Members of our athletic department will regularly see her assisting other teams or departments which goes beyond her job description. Her favorite question to ask others is, "what can I do to help?" This has definitely continued, and even elevated, as our campus has gone remotely during the CoVid-19 pandemic. Katharine serves on several committees providing insight and feedback into a successful return to campus for the fall; volunteering her time for the greater good.

It is her humility and her servant-leadership that sets her apart and she should be recognized for putting the Niner community ahead of her own needs and wants.

## **Area 15B**

### **Paula Lail**

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: When Covid guidelines read as "If you wake up in the morning, and go to sleep at night, sign here for a free vacation" (paraphrasing of course :-)) but you see my point). Paula was ready and active without skipping a beat. Not only was I her only coworker on the day's activities, but then redirected every week to tackle other zones needs. Either due to their shorthanded/nonexistent tech's available those days or just added help where requested. She tackled not only every project that required attention (or at least quelled any fires or failures sufficiently enough until subcontractors became available), I also overheard thru the campus wide radio traffic her being requested to lead another out of our zone tech thru a challenge or concern. (I believe she even was requested to meet a vendor for door/chaperone services once across campus). All of this stress and chaos came at a time when her husband just came out of a very serious cancer surgery just a couple months prior and presently going thru a positive recovery. She not only had the "tenure" in age but the referenced lifestyle points of critical risks that could have infected her husband thru any exposure while fulfilling her employee duties on campus. Knowing the "easy out" was always there she brushed the "pandemic of panic" aside and came to work and did so without a helping hand or "gof'r" assistant to help save her when needed, and those times were plentiful at this critical times, I know.

(Although all of FMZ2 that has been present and sent all over to keep the campus needs fulfilled and still have a Cadillac of a homezone once others came back is worthy of praise, even with my bias. I didn't come across any other zones that carried the campus water as often and as effortlessly adaptive to the needs of FM top brass. So cheers to us, UNCC and thanks Paula for your leadership and work ethic put on display in these times.

## **Area 16**

### **Wayne Stone**

Relationship to nominee: Co-worker

Reason for nomination: Wayne Stone has been a critical piece in the creation of 49erNext's Proactive Advising Analysis. The 49erNext program is just a year old, so we've had to work through a few iterations and complete a few rounds of testing. Wayne has always been there- with a tremendous amount of patience, flexibility, and problem-solving skills to work through the

various data files received from our partner and ultimately created a meaningful and actionable data output. Thank you, Wayne, for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate you and are grateful you are part of the 49erNext team!