



Golden Nugget Awards – September 2019

Area 2

Hannah Holst

Reason for nomination: Hannah has flourished in this role! She takes everything that is thrown at her whether it's construction happening during a Saturday tour or making sure no one comes in the bus loop. She keeps the team informed with all of the updates in the new building. While providing her knowledge to the Niner guides and prospective students and families. Hannah is a great addition to our team and we would not be able to do what we do without her!

Maureen Martinez

Reason for nomination: Maureen always responds to inquiries extremely quickly and thoroughly. If she can't help with the issue, she will direct you to someone who can. I feel bad for how often I e-mail her with questions, but she is always so happy to help and I appreciate it so much. She is extremely friendly and helpful with all student interactions. She is my go-to for all questions related to the registrar!

Area 4

Brandon DeLeeuw

Brandon was incredibly helpful on a help desk ticket. He remoted in to fix an issue on one of our general computers, and he was lightning fast on the computer mouse and reading at a sonic speed. It was hard for me to keep up with what he was doing, so he voluntarily wrote out the procedure as he was performing steps and sent those written instructions to me and a colleague. The level of service was extraordinary and truly appreciated.

Area 6

Stephen Bowman

Reason for nomination: Stephen Bowman has the most gracious, humble, and caring demeanor towards prospective students, applicants, and his colleagues in graduate admissions. I love his Southern charm; he says "yes, ma'am," and "no, ma'am." When I interact with Stephen, I always feel respected and appreciated even when I have had to respond with a "no" to the situation he posed.

Laurie Parker

Reason for nomination: Laurie is always willing to come to my office to resolve any issues or answer any questions I may have. If she cannot come right away, she lets me know right then when she can come. She has truly been a lifesaver for me!!

Karyn Williamson-Coria

Reason for nomination: Karyn has been an excellent resource for me when I have questions that I cannot find the answer to. I have only been here for two months and am now just settling into my job. She is friendly and always willing to help. I had a huge learning curve and she has helped me move along that curve. I couldn't have done it without her!

Area 7

Josh Avery

Reason for nomination: Due to changes in NC teacher licensing requirements, we've had a tremendous increase in inquiries and applications for our graduate initial licensure programs. Many of these go to Josh, and he has navigated the surge with professionalism and positivity while continuing to make efforts to connect with potential students and ensure they feel welcome. Thanks for all the hard work, Josh. Our students, and ultimately the students in the classrooms they will lead, are better for it.

Janet Baker

Reason for nomination: I definitely know a staff member who deserves a little extra gold in their sluice pan for going above and beyond the call of duty, as well as who represents UNC Charlotte in a manner we can all be proud of! Her name is Mrs. Janet Baker. Janet is the Program Associate for the School of Social Work. I begin to tremble in fear when I think of what we would

to without her. Janet is always in a good mood and is very approachable. This is a good thing since we have request after request after request of her. When faculty (including administrators like me) do not know how to do something, Janet is our go-to person. From fixing the copier to fixing a student's mixed-up schedule, Janet can do it all. There doesn't seem to be anything that Janet doesn't know or can't help with from letting us know the timeline for discarding records to knowing how to hire a student worker. Quite often there is a line of people waiting outside Janet's door for her help, but this doesn't even fluster her. She's kind and helpful to students, faculty, administrators, staff, and community members. She's an ideal representative of UNC Charlotte. I'm afraid you'll read this and want her to come work in your unit instead of ours because she's that amazing! Please consider Mrs. Janet Baker for the Golden Nugget award. She is very deserving.

Jessica Berrios

Reason for nomination: I have recently taken on two roles, and would not be able to get all that I needed to do done without Jessica's help. She is a wizard with Microsoft Office, Surveyshare, and a number of other technology-based resources, and has helped to create several high-quality presentations for me. She also was instrumental in the recent creation of the MDSK spring 2020 schedule. With 16 different programs, this is no small feat. She is well-deserving of recognition.

Vikki Cherwon

Reason for nomination: Vikki is the pre-award specialist for our college. She is very thorough and thoughtful. She is detail oriented and makes sure we (as proposal writers) have everything we need to submit a successful grant application. She is a true professional.

Brandi Hinson

Reason for nomination: Brandi is an amazing co-worker. She has recently had to take on additional job duties due to a staff member taking maternity leave and has excelled at anything "thrown her way". She is always willing to go above and beyond to make sure the faculty and students have everything they need to be successful during the semester. She is the first to step up to take on "projects" and is constantly looking for ways to make procedures more efficient. Although we are in different departments, I am truly honored to have Brandi as a co-worker and friend.

Barbara Howard

Reason for nomination: I want to nominate Barbara Howard for a Golden Nugget Award. Barbara is always willing to assist with any questions and if she doesn't know an answer, Barbara will direct you to someone who can help. She is the assistant to the Associate Dean and works with many of the Assistant Deans and Directors including our office. When I started working at UNC Charlotte two years ago, it was Barbara that provided me with any assistance I needed and was always willing to guide me. This helpful attitude has not faltered and remains consistent even today. I am forever grateful for Barbara's generosity and showing a sense of camaraderie to someone new to the college. It doesn't matter the question I may have, Barbara will help. Many colleagues do not realize all the tasks Barbara completes in the day to day operations for the dean's office and she deserves recognition for the commitment to our college.

Sarah Johnson

Reason for nomination: Sarah has done an outstanding job in the role of Office Manager for the TEAL office, leading the Dean's Advisory Council in new endeavors, and now becoming an active member on the Staff Council. Sarah is always thinking of innovative ways to bring faculty and staff together to build rapport and increase morale within COED. Sarah is always a team-player and goes above and beyond expectations.

Regina Johnson

Reason for nomination: Regina is always pleasant and HAPPY! She is the face of our department- the first person people encounter in our main office. This matters. She listens to students, handles tough scenarios, and always has a smile. Regina has wisdom and is well-liked by everyone in our department. She takes care of us. I can count on Regina. Every day- no matter what, we can count on Regina being happy. Regina is competent and will go beyond the extra mile to get things done. She is collaborative, kind, and wise. Regina is one of the reasons that REEL is a great department. She is genuine and takes time for our needs.

Reason for nomination: Regina goes above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis. She is thoughtful, supportive, and a great problem solver! Regina gives 110% to all of the faculty she supports in ways that make us so very grateful to have her in our front office. She treats us like we are family, and we love her as well! She works so hard, and works through adversity. We appreciate Regina!

Jessi Kiker

Reason for nomination: Jessi is the best administrative assistant for the following reasons:

1. She really cares about us.

2. She is incredibly organized and runs the department very well.
3. She is well-liked and takes her job seriously.
4. She is still learning- by going to school while working and can balance being a dedicated mom, student, admin, and coach!
5. She does all of this with a smile.

Our department needed the organization and stability that Jessi provides. She is knowledgeable and if she promises it- it is done yesterday. :)

Fran Paluso

Reason for nomination: Fran Paluso is the glue that holds this department together. Fran is a team player and has a great sense of humor. She goes above and beyond to help students, faculty and staff, and she treats everyone with respect. Even when things get stressful around the office, Fran stays cool and calm. Fran is a problem solver and is always looking for better ways of doing things. Personally, Fran has helped me in more ways that I can count and I am grateful to work with her and call her a friend!

Wendy Ramirez

Reason for nomination: I had a larger role in ordering, receiving, and keeping track of purchases this year for the department and Wendy has been with me every step of the way to not only answer any questions I had (on the spot!) but also to give me enough guidance to perform that part of my job with confidence. She always does everything with a smile, even when she is completely slammed with work requests. I enjoy working with Wendy. She truly helps to keep our department running!

Reason for nomination: Wendy has been wonderful this summer, going above and beyond the call of duty to assist a new chair and new faculty members settling into the University. She is always checking in with new faculty to make sure everything is going ok, and is extremely proactive in assisting people with the onboarding process. This recognition would be well deserved.

Doreen Smith

Reason for nomination: Doreen is an amazing co-worker and I am delighted to work with her. She is the epitome of organized, always calm, pleasant, and welcoming when anyone stops by our Director of Nursing office in the SON. I have never had a question or a need that she has not been able to help me with. Through multiple changes in leadership, she has remained a constant. She is knowledgeable and professional. It is a pleasure to work with her.

Area 8

Mike Fresina

Reason for nomination: He is so enthusiastic about everything he does and so passionate. He is so easy to work with and such a fun person to be around.

Kara Smith

Reason for nomination: Immediate days following the tragic shooting on campus one of Kara's students she advises needed some extra assistance, as the event impacted that student tremendously. Kara in a good nature reached out to the student and took some extra time to meet with him, and even joined him to the food trucks on campus. She really assisted the student and helped the other faculty/staff through this act.

Area 9

Eric Bowers

Reason for nomination: Eric quickly helped us implement a solution to ensure the success of a campus wide initiative. Within an hour the solution was in place and our potential crisis was averted due to his expertise and quick action! Eric embodies what it means to be a team player. Thank you Eric!

Area 11

Steve Terry

Reason for nomination: Steve took the time out of his very busy day to create a giant poster for one of our planning and strategy sessions. Steve not only saved us money by creating this poster, but he also took the steps to arrange that we had the png file saved for future use and extended his expertise to find other png files for us to create other posters. He also arranged for the poster to be laminated which made a huge difference in our capability to use the poster. Thank you, Steve, for making our planning event better with your willingness to go above and beyond to create materials on-demand and in the middle of your busy workday.

Area 12

Carla Howze

Reason for nomination: Carla went above and beyond for her cleaning duties. She was courteous and kind. There was a large bug in my office next to my desk, I had no way of killing it and it was a flying bug! I ran to Randy and Carla and asked could they dis-guard the bug and he and her co-worker did. Her co-worker Randy Sidbeck put in a work order to have exterminators come and spray the office. These two have great teamwork and make sure our building the Storrs building is clean!

Randy Sidbeck

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Area 15A

Landon Martin

Reason for nomination: Landon saw that I was struggling to walk back with some boxes and he graciously offered me a ride. He went above and beyond to help a colleague which is nice to see. Thank you.

Area 16

Cat Runden

Reason for nomination: Cat helps me think through IRB applications. The applications can be complex and frustrating. Cat is always easy to reach and willing to help me develop a successful application. She is a UNC Charlotte treasure. I'm sure if she was not around the university would see less human subjects research taking place at UNC Charlotte.

Area 18

Hannah Harrell

Reason for nomination: I am very appreciative of how she takes time with students. Being a student and staff in the college can be challenging. Hannah is always willing to take time to explain things and go the extra mile. Her enthusiasm about the program was one of the reasons I not only decided to apply to work here but, she is why completing my degree became an attainable option.

Beth Rucker

Reason for nomination: During recent changes in staff, Beth has taken on multiple peoples job responsibilities. Even when overwhelmed, she is willing to help whenever she can. I wanted her to know that she is appreciated and valued.

Solange Tricanowicz

Reason for nomination: Solange has worked feverishly this spring and summer with a new aspect of the Management program. She has developed a professional development course for students that encourage professional and contextual skills development. Students were exposed to community business leaders, strategies for the job search and personal branding. Solange has been met with logistical challenges and student push back but has successfully completed her first course with the program. Not only did she teach this course but she fully developed it autonomously. She has given her students great support and skills through this endeavor and should be rewarded for such.