

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
12/1/2024	Ysatiz Piñero	Leadership & Community Engagement	17	Since Ysatiz joined the UNC Charlotte community almost a year ago, she has brought positive energy and good vibes everywhere she goes. In particular during November, Ysatiz modeled having Niner Pride and being a phenomenal colleague. During Niner Nation Week: Homecoming 2024 alone, Ysatiz was seen supporting and being an active volunteer at several events. Ysatiz attended and assisted at the Aux Cord Wars Live Event, the NPHC Stroll Competition, the Divine 9 Markers Unveiling, and the student tailgating activities (to name a few). Ysatiz maintains a consistent presence to provide intentional support and active engagement at several student programs across all departments. Thank you to Ysatiz and the rest of her team for always leading the way to help out their coworkers. We appreciate you!
12/1/2024	Caleb Holguin	CRES	11	Caleb is deserving of a Golden Nugget Award for all of his work with assisting the Campus Activities Board (CAB) with our reservations this semester, but especially over the last month. Caleb has been instrumental with assuring that our space, layout, and setup needs have been met. CAB has had to make a plethora of adjustments to event dates, locations, and times with our November events. However, Caleb has been very understanding and accommodating of their needs. He provides quality customer service to our students and has been flexible with any untimely request. We appreciate Caleb for meeting the students where they are at and assisting our new program coordinators with learning how to reserve spaces congruent with their event needs/vision. Thank you, Caleb!
12/1/2024	Ayana Cholula	Student Involvement	17	Ayana successfully planned and executed her first Student Organization Leadership Development (S.O.L.D.) Institute in November. In addition to coordinating impactful educational sessions to provide students with a variety of subjects to learn about, she facilitated an all-encompassing closing session focused on teamwork, communication, and the importance of understanding varied perspectives/view points. The students were highly engaged in the activity and the discussion afterwards. Many students stayed after the institute ended to continue conversation about how they benefited from attending the institute. Shout out to Ayana for helping students find themselves as leaders and helping them connect with the student leader community.
12/1/2024	Emmy Womble	Student Involvement	17	Emmy has been an absolute rock star over the past month (and more)! This November was a big month in the world of student activities with several Niner Nation Week: Homecoming 2024 events and other school spirited initiatives. Due to the enhancement of several processes that Emmy spearheaded in our office and within the Campus Activities Board (CAB), we had a relatively smooth and highly impactful month that benefitted the student experience. Some of these processes that were highlighted this past month include our monthly marketing materials (calendars, a-frame distribution, elevator clings, etc.), student committee and executive board meeting agenda protocols, program logistics development, and conference application review. Most notably in the past month, Emmy challenged her colleagues and students to aim higher when considering their involvement in professional associations. Therefore, she coached our student and professional staff teams on presentation proposal submissions. As a result, Student Involvement and CAB had 3 presentations accepted for the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) and 1 presentation accepted for NASPA. Lastly, Emmy and another colleague presented at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) this month to a packed audience. The room was full and their conversation sparked several requests to incorporate elements of their presentation at future workshops/conferences/meetings. We are proud of Emmy and honored to call her a colleague/friend.
12/2/2024	Sue Edwards	Human Resources	2	Although Sue is transitioning to another role in Human Resources, I would like for her to be recognized for her outstanding work in Facilities Human Resources. Sue was always helpful, kind, respectful, and willing to work with staff to make the hiring experience as seamless and simple as possible. Always willing to go above and beyond, Sue was and is an excellent communicator and an overall positive person - which goes a long way in the world of human resources. I enjoyed working with Sue over the last couple of years and hope to continue to do so in her new role.
12/2/2024	Karla Liboreiro	Human Resources	2	Karla was very helpful in assisting with the process of completing a competency change for a staff member and a competency alignment within the department. Karla was very communicative and was willing to help in any way possible. Great new addition to the HR team!
12/2/2024	Agnes Galambosi Ozelkan	Industrial & Systems Engineering	8	In her role as Departmental Advisor, "Dr. G." consistently goes above and beyond to help students achieve success. She responds to each student when they express a need for further guidance on how to be successful in their program. She does not hesitate to reach out to the Chair, Graduate and Undergraduate directors and works with them to find solutions when a student needs a little extra assistance. We are a small department, so Agnes never hesitates to be helpful in many other areas outside of her Advising duties such as updating our department website. She also created a page on LinkedIn and posts news about our department there. She is always willing to be present at Open Houses to provide information on the programs offered in our department and to give tours to prospective students and their families. Agnes is cheerful, positive and an invaluable asset to the Industrial and Systems Engineering department.
12/2/2024	Colin Lamb	Housing & Residence Life	5	I am thrilled to nominate Colin for their outstanding contributions this semester in enhancing the residential experience for students in Belk hall. Through their creative programming, Colin fostered a vibrant and inclusive community that encouraged students to connect, learn, and grow. Their engaging and thoughtful social media content kept residents informed and inspired, while their innovative educational strategies offered students meaningful opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills. Above all, Colin's consistent and approachable presence in the community made Colin a trusted and valued resource for residents. Colin truly exemplifies excellence in residence life and student engagement.

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12/2/2024	Reaiah Rutherford	Housing & Residence Lfie	5	I am honored to recognize Reaiah for their exceptional leadership as Chair of the Student Staff Recruitment & Selection Committee. She has demonstrated unwavering dedication to ensuring a fair and equitable hiring process that upheld the highest standards of integrity and inclusivity. Reaiah skillfully facilitated the collection, evaluation, and implementation of feedback from multiple stakeholders, ensuring that each stage of the process was thoughtful and responsive to the needs of both applicants and the institution. Their ability to maintain stability, foster collaboration, and adapt to feedback exemplifies their commitment to excellence and their impactful contribution to building a strong, dynamic student staff team.
12/2/2024	Justyn Ramseur	Housing & Residence Life	5	I am delighted to nominate Justyn for their exceptional dedication and resilience this semester. Amidst the challenges of balancing academic responsibilities, personal commitments, and a dynamic work environment, he has gone above and beyond to provide unwavering support to the two student organizations they advise. Despite constant personnel changes and role ambiguity, Justyn remained a steady and resourceful guide for their students, fostering growth and continuity within these organizations. Additionally, his collaboration and collegiality with co-advisors have made him an invaluable member of the team, exemplifying professionalism, adaptability, and genuine care for the success of those they work with.
12/3/2024	Tam Nguyen	OneIT	4	There have been many occasions where my team has experienced networking issues and Tam has gone above and beyond to ensure that our issues have been resolved. Most recently Tam not only worked with us to try to ensure that all was working properly with the network, but he also setup monitoring to ensure that he would be able to identify if there were issues that may not show up during the initial investigation. Tam has always been gracious with his assistance to ensure success!
12/3/2024	Adi Saenz Padilla	University College Advising Center	3	Adi is so organized and on top of everything! She is kind, thoughtful, and super smart. I so very much appreciate her help keeping Colvard running smoothly everyday!
12/6/2024	Ronnie Wright	Grounds	15A	Ronnie has worked tirelessly with our entire central campus crew to be an integral part of our team. his work ethic, commitment to excellence and upbeat attitude make him a pleasure to work alongside. I can always count on Ronnies gumption to get a job done, and get it done well!
12/6/2024	Jamison Funderud	Grounds	15A	Jamison has been a dedicated member for a long time here on our grounds crew. His experience and hard work ethic have remained a key cog in our operation here in grounds. Jamison has recently taken on a new role that has expanded his duties and priorities and he has done it with an attitude of excellence. He strives to let his work speak for itself and is never afraid to lend a hand to help our grounds department shine!
12/6/2024	Devan Babish-Jakones	Grounds	15A	Devan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Central Campus Grounds group. always one to be thinking of better, more efficient ways to do a job, but never afraid to tackle the most daunting of tasks. Chances are if you've seen one someone mowing the steepest hills on campus, its been Devan and he makes his work look phenomenal. I'm very appreciative of his craftsmanship!
12/6/2024	Derek Murray	Grounds	15A	Derek brings a keen eye for detail and the most tedious of tasks to our group. His focus on the minute details many might not notice add up to really bring beauty to our Central Campus area. His knowledge of flowers and many other areas of our landscape plantings make his experience invaluable. always ready to lend a hand, jump in, or pass on his knowledge he is a true pleasure to work with!
12/6/2024	Virgil Torrence	Grounds	15A	Virgil is a rock in our Central Campus area of grounds. Since I came over as the crew leader he has shown me every nook and cranny that needs attention, but may be forgotten, if it weren't for him. Virgil is as tough as they come and willing to face any weather condition to make sure a job is seen to completion. I'm truly proud to work alongside him!
12/6/2024	Karla Liboreiro	HR Consultant	2	Karla Liboreiro was amazing today with her professional HR support. Providing me Human Resources Classification & Compensation consultation within Niner Talent Position Management system. Her compassionate spirit for a thorough process was rewarding. I look forward to working with her in the future. Her sincere attitude and great customer service gives her a 5 ***** rating. Thank you Karla for your amazing work you provide to the campus!
12/9/2024	Jessica Yesgosh	University Advancement	11	Jessica has spent hundreds of hours working on the transition to Ascend/Salesforce and did a training for our development team and endured many unrelated and tedious questions, where she kept her composure and gave a comprehensive, thoughtful presentation. She indulged questions while moving the program forward. She was much more respectful of those that tried to bog things down than many of the rest of us would have been (points at self). We are lucky to have Jessica at the helm of this project.
12/9/2024	Darnisha Pulley	Center for Wellness Promotion	13	Darnisha took initiative to bring a key initiative, Clear the Air: A - Tobacco- Free- U Trivia Night to campus in November. This event included departmental staffing, and brought in significant campus and community partners to bring awareness and knowledge to the topic of tobacco cessation. This event not only aligned with the departments strategic plan of providing prevention education across campus but Darnisha went above and beyond by including a key stakeholder that will lead to significant partnerships in the future!
12/10/2024	Niki Braggs	School of Professional Studies Business Services	9	Niki has done an excellent job with training on the new travel process with Concur and has greatly assisted me with my travel to Philadelphia. She has gone above and beyond for me with my submission of receipts and help with my reimbursements. It is greatly appreciated! Terrific internal customer service! Thank you Niki!

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12/11/2024	Chris Campbell	One IT - Enterprise Applications	4	Chris stepped in to the Ascend project and designed/coded integrations in a very quick turnaround. He went out of his way to stay on task and meet the needs of the customer and helped to make these integrations a success.
12/12/2024	Cristhian Gonzalez de la Fuente	FM - Grounds	15A	He watched over a coworker who briefly lost consciousness and ensured the young man got the care he needed. This was especially important because their supervisor was out of the office that day. Cristhian has always been caring and this further shows the true warmth in his heart.
12/13/2024	Elisabeth Brown	Facilities Management AVC	15A	Beth Brown is a great Workforce Data Analyst, and she supported our team with excellent customer service and strong partnership. Beth always goes above and beyond to provide great support to Niner Talent users, to intermediate the FM managers and the HR team regarding position management and Budget matters. Thank you Beth, for such your passion for work and collaborative behaviors!
12/10/2024	Nikki Kawalec	Human Resources	2	Nikki is a great Executive Assistant, and she supports our HR team with excellent customer service and partnership focused on team goals. As an example, Nikki provided a training regarding CONCUR system usage and how to navigate to report expenses and timely close the process. Nikki's energy is awesome, such a positive behavior every day, trying to do her best to help and support us. I'm so glad to work with her. Thank you Nikki, for your passion for working here and all your collaborative behaviors!
12/16/2024	Kawon Taylor	Popp Martin Student Union	17	Kawon stepped up to assist a client in the Student Union for a major event during commencement weekend. He realized that the student Building Manager did not arrive so he took it upon himself to help the client with their room setup and to contact myself and other staff who were offsite to get the client's AV set up for their event. Typically room set ups and AV set ups are not part of his job responsibility as a BES lead. Kawon was a great team player and made sure that we got the job done!
12/26/2024	Stan Gant	FM	15A	<p>Dear Golden Nugget Award Committee,</p> <p>Stan's exceptional dedication and invaluable contributions to the COLAB initiative have been nothing short of remarkable, making him an outstanding candidate for this recognition.</p> <p>Stan has been a driving force behind bringing COLAB into a fully operational and dynamic state. His welcoming approach and commitment have been vital in elevating COLAB from a concept to a thriving reality.</p> <p>What truly distinguishes Stan is his consistent willingness to exceed expectations. He routinely takes on responsibilities outside his designated role, demonstrating unparalleled dedication. Stan's proactive approach to addressing challenges and identifying opportunities has been crucial to our success.</p> <p>Stan's commitment extends far beyond regular work hours. He has consistently made himself available outside of standard business hours, ensuring our team receives support whenever needed. This dedication has been pivotal in maintaining project momentum and promptly addressing time-sensitive issues.</p> <p>One of Stan's most significant contributions has been his insightful recommendations and constructive feedback. His ability to anticipate challenges and propose effective solutions has helped us succeed. Stan's forward-thinking approach has not only solved immediate problems but has also helped us strategically position COLAB for long-term success.</p> <p>His collaborative spirit and willingness to share knowledge and support colleagues have fostered an environment of innovation and continuous improvement. Stan's efforts have significantly contributed to building the academic anchor of the North Tryon Tech Hub.</p> <p>Stan Gant exemplifies the very essence of what the Golden Nugget Award represents. His exceptional performance, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on COLAB and our team make him an outstanding candidate for this award. Stan's contributions have not only ensured the success of our initiatives but have also raised the bar for excellence.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly nominate Stan Gant for the UNC Charlotte Golden Nugget Award.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dr. Brad Yeckley Executive Director, CEI/COLAB</p>