

## April 2025 Golden Nuggets

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
4/2/2025 10:25:05	Imani Brown	University Advancement - Annual Giving, DXO	11	Imani has been a bright light since joining our team, and continues to excel in her work as a DXO as well as being a kick-ass colleague. Today, I was supposed to help out with the alumni office's commencement kick off event, but am feeling under the weather and asked if someone would take my shift - Imani took it right away. I was SO grateful. While I'm in the office, I have no extra energy to take part in the event. I'm lucky to have Imani as a colleague.
4/3/2025 16:02:12	Dana Tweed	CHHS Business Office	7	Dana goes above and beyond in her dedication to serving the unit heads in CHHS. Often I need help after hours, on weekend, or while Dana is taking time off and she will respond to my questions, knowing that the information is needed for decisions. I appreciate this, as it is not expected, but it is done because she cares about the mission of CHHS.
4/3/2025 16:05:43	Devrim Ozdemir	CHHS Dean's Office	7	I appreciate Devrim's consistent willingness to support us with answers to data driven questions. He is always willing to listen and help. School of Social Work recently completed a self study and he was able to provide needed information. I also appreciate his friendly smile when people walk past his window. :-)
4/3/2025 16:13:03	Cali Wickert	School of Social Work	7	Cali has been very patient with the long process of being connected with a software program to support her job tasks. I appreciate her flexibility and willingness to help solve the problems associated with the process.
4/3/2025 16:21:03	Cheryl Whitley	School of Social Work	7	I appreciate the hard work of Cheryl with supporting the year-long renovation in the social work suite. Cheryl worked to coordinate the furniture moving and helped with planning.
4/3/2025 16:26:52	Ava Torrise	School of Social Work	7	Ava is an invaluable member of the School of Social Work Team. She is a part time employee but has managed to create a position for herself where we cannot imagine doing without her contributions. Ava is very personable and welcoming to new applicants to our BSW and MSW programs, and is in part responsible for our increase in applications. She makes us look good by promoting all team accomplishments on our socials. Thanks, Ava!
4/3/2025 16:30:12	Vicky Harris	School of Social Work	7	Vicky Harris is a pivotal team member in the School of Social Work. She joined us less than two years ago and is already responsible for many improvements in our systems, such as the employee travel reimbursement processes. She is approachable, which is important in a service position, so that faculty are comfortable to come to her and ask questions. We are also proud of her academic accomplishments! Thanks for the cheerful greetings and smiles, Vicky! :-)
4/3/2025 23:08:17	Nelly Lezama	BES / Recycling	12	She's awesome! Nelly maintains the floors in Atkins Library. She drives a riding vacuum cleaner and sweeps with a pan and broom simultaneously! She's always going!
4/3/2025 23:20:13	Marcus Frazier	BES / Recycling	12	Marcus does an exemplary job keeping Atkins Library in order. Sweeping and mopping down stairways, constantly checking restrooms, and making sure Atkins looks its best. He's always on the go, never idle, and it shows. I really appreciate his work ethic.
4/7/2025 13:06:34	Tim Carmichael	Director of IT and Facilities Operations for Belk College of Business	4	Tim does a remarkable job of helping with anything that is needed in the Belk College of Business. He never says "that is not part of my job responsibility" no matter what he is asked. He is always going to help solve an issue or find someone who can. He is an extremely valuable part of the Belk College of Business.
4/7/2025 13:12:30	Lee Perkins	Office of OneIT	4	We hosted a big meeting this morning with corporate partners. I had an issue with the presentation that I was using. When I asked Lee for help, he solved my issue without hesitation. I only had about 75 minutes until the meeting started and when Lee stepped in to help, it both relieved the stress of meeting preparation, but also he took care of the issue with kindness. He helped me to understand what to look for next time. He not only fixed the problem but helped me to be equipped to handle potential future problems.
4/9/2025 7:59:27	Thomas O'Donnell	Facilities Management   Maintenance Operations	15B	Tom O'Donnell is 24/7 when it comes to supporting our University HVAC. OneIT has over 200 data closets that require cooling. When a split unit breaks and cooling fails, it impacts our equipment and can interrupt network services. Tom consistently addresses these issues with a sense of urgency and commitment to "fix it". His professionalism, knowledge and communication with end users (like me) is really appreciated. Besides all of this - Tom is a great colleague and an asset to our University community. He deserves the UNC Golden Nugget Award in recognition of his service.
4/11/2025 9:40:58	Kristy DeSantis	Housing and Residence Life	5	Kristy has always been a wonderful colleague, however, recent departures on the HRL team have put additional pressures on the staff to maintain a high level of service. From outside the office, I can see how dedicated Kristy is to the success of the office. Her 4am messages alerted me to the fact that she is working well overtime to answer every student inquiry during a peak period for assignments. I appreciate Kristy's work and dedication to our new students who are enrolling at Charlotte. Thanks, Kristy!

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4/11/2025 9:41:49	Sarah Powell	UGE - Office of Undergraduate Research	3	<p>During the last 6 weeks, the Director (me) has been traveling a lot and thus out of the office for a third of the workdays during this period. This time was also included key periods in the office workload, where we received and processed a record number of summer scholars program applications, the 3rd largest number of submissions for the URC ever, as well as applications for the fall scholars program. In addition to the Director's absence, the office GA who often helps has been finishing her thesis and preparing for the GRS and her defense. Sarah has stepped up and covered for these absences on what is already a small team. Sarah completed a majority of both application reviews and URC abstract reviews during this time. In addition, she stepped in to manage some difficult personnel issues that also arose during this time in our current our spring scholars program. Sarah has handled this all with grace, professionalism, and without a single complaint - even though I can tell she is exhausted. This is why I think she deserves recognition for making this small office run efficiently, even though we were understaffed, to where many did not even notice the absences.</p>
4/11/2025 12:27:50	Lori Brasile	Career Center	3	<p>It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Lori for the Golden Nugget Award. Lori is truly an incredible asset to our team, and we are so fortunate to work alongside her. Her compassion and unwavering commitment to helping others—whether students or colleagues—shines through in everything she does.</p> <p>Lori brings professionalism, thoughtfulness, and diplomacy to every interaction, especially when navigating complex campus partnerships. She has a remarkable ability to bring people together, align differing perspectives, and move projects forward with clarity and purpose.</p> <p>Her dedication to making others feel seen and valued is evident in the personal touches she brings—whether through coffee chats, intentional check-ins, or lunch meetings. These thoughtful gestures not only build strong relationships but also elevate the level of care and connection across our campus community.</p> <p>Lori's leadership in numerous projects and action teams has been instrumental to their success. She consistently delivers high-quality, thorough work—always on time, always with excellence. When Lori is leading a project, there's no doubt it will be handled with precision, accountability, and heart.</p> <p>What truly sets Lori apart is her "get it done" attitude and her heart for helping others. She approaches every challenge with positivity and a can-do spirit, whether it's supporting a student through a complex situation or guiding a team through a collaborative initiative. Her willingness to take initiative while also checking in and collaborating with others ensures that projects are both successful and inclusive.</p> <p>Lori's hard work, empathy, and integrity make her a shining example of going above and beyond. She exemplifies the spirit of the Golden Nugget Award, and I can't think of anyone more deserving. Thank you for everything you do, Lori!</p>

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4/11/2025 15:54:52	Katie Russo	Dean of Student/Student Assistant and Support Services	11	<p>I am honored to nominate Katie Russo for the Golden Nugget Award. Katie joined the Dean of Students Office, working in the Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) the past seven years ago as an Assistant Director for Case Management. The SASS office is seen as the hub for student support on campus. SASS is responsible for direct services such as absence, verification, withdrawal due to extenuating circumstances, threat assessment via the Niner Care Liaison Team, Student Emergency Fund, Mental Health Fund, Student Emergency Housing program, and providing academic support meeting with students wanting to appeal a final grade and requesting an incomplete. I believe that SASS is a critical office that contributes to Charlotte's student retention and graduation rates.</p> <p>Katie has since been promoted to Associate Director of SASS. As part of Katie's role in SASS, she oversees Case Management Support. The primary person for Case Management, Katie, meets with hundreds of students referred to SASS for many reasons (academic support, mental and physical health issues, financial issues, etc.). During care meetings, Katie assesses and prioritizes their needs, including threats to themselves and others, and develops a care plan to mitigate those issues and help students connect to support resources on campus that contribute to their personal and academic success and overall well-being. Katie is knowledgeable about academic and broader university policies, which is helpful when trying to address students, faculty and staff, parents, and family members contacting the SASS office for help. On many occasions, Katie has gone above and beyond the scope of her responsibilities to walk a student from the King Building to the Counseling and Psychological Services to provide emotional and safety support for students in crisis and distress. Katie has been asked to serve on many committees, particularly the JED Campus Committee, which is dedicated to strengthening mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention efforts on campus. Katie is a strong advocate for students working staff in the Academic and Student Affairs on behalf of students who need academic support.</p> <p>During the Fall 2024 semester, I had to take FMLA. Katie stepped up to lead the SASS office during my absence while managing the loss of two key staff members to other professional opportunities. Additionally, due to a divisional realignment, the Jamil Niner Food Pantry was realigned to the SASS office during the summer, which Katie assisted in food procurement for the pantry, meeting with on campus and off- campus partners to ensure a streamlined transition to the SASS office and ensuring students needs were still being met impacted by food insecurity. For those reasons and many more I could list, I am nominating Katie for the Golden Nugget Award to recognize her hard work and dedication to SASS and our students, faculty, and staff.</p>
4/13/2025 16:20:19	Mildred McKinney	Environmental Tech	17	Mildred has gone over and beyond with her work. she has maintain the building on the weekends twice by her self, and has done an absolutely great job, leaving the other shift ready to get started.
4/13/2025 20:53:35	Patrick Baker	BCOB - Finance and Personnel Team	18	I am extremely proud of Patrick Baker and his commitment to the Finance & Personnel team and to the College of Business. He continually demonstrates excellence in his work and is quick to help others whenever it is needed. Thank you for everything you do to support us, Patrick! Keep up the excellent work!
4/14/2025 11:12:01	Suzanne Voigt	Career Center	3	<p>Suzanne has been doing absolutely amazing work to build strong, meaningful connections between the Career Center and faculty/staff across campus. She's the go-to person for all things career readiness when it comes to training and supporting our campus partners—and she does it all with creativity, energy, and a dream-big mindset that's awe-inspiring.</p> <p>From launching the Career Collaborator Award to leading big monthly trainings and developing super helpful resources for faculty and staff, Suzanne has created so many ways for people to connect with and engage in our work. She manages classroom engagement requests, creates modules and activities faculty can use on their own, and helps departments think strategically about how career development fits into their programs.</p> <p>Suzanne is all heart and hustle, and her impact is felt all over campus. We're incredibly lucky to have her on our team!</p>
4/15/2025 7:53:15	Logan Homesley	APHCS	7	Logan joined APHCS in January 2025 and immediately became an integral part of our team. She is efficient, productive, and a pleasure to work with. I am especially grateful for Logan's collaboration on the roll out of the Exercise Science professional development and mentoring series. Logan created a calendar of events and marketing materials and reserved spaces for presentations. She helped make the event a big success. I'm grateful to have Logan on our team!

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4/16/2025 10:48:28	Alessandra Pastor	Human Resources - Learning & Development	2	Alessandra is such a great professional and person to work with. She always delivers wonderful and detailed training sessions. Alessandra is also a captain for our HR team in the Miles for Wellness Challenge, a state program to promote wellbeing. As a captain, she has demonstrated a high level of organization and engagement, and she always encourages us to do our best. Thank you, Alessandra. It is a pleasure to work with you; the HR team is lucky to have you on the team.
4/16/2025 11:44:27	Karla Liboreiro	Human Resources - Compensation and Position Management	2	Karla is a joy to work with. She always has a positive attitude and contagious enthusiasm. Karla makes a conscious effort to build long-lasting relationships with colleagues and campus partners. Time and again at Staff Appreciation Events, I've observed Karla's thoughtful gesture of introducing herself to those who arrived alone and inviting them to sit. She always makes everyone feel welcomed! We are so lucky to have Karla in our department!
4/18/2025 14:05:33	Tiffany McAfee	Summer School in the School of Professional Studies	9	Tiffany continues to be exceptional at facilitating summer school administration. She is an expert in all facets of her work and she has complete ownership of the policies, processes, and procedures that units need to effectively deliver summer courses. She carries a huge responsibility for the University and her communication and skill sets are simply top shelf. She is a tremendous resource to units and all the students & faculty we serve. She is a consummate professional and superb resource to units.
4/24/2025 15:49:02	Treasure Rouse	Housing and Residence Life	5	Treasure had a vision and executed it in planning and putting on our End of Year Banquet, aka the Oscar's. She brought ideas that were unique and different than what may have occurred before but she challenged the status quo. She demonstrated her imagination and amazing ideas in how she structured the banquet and really made it into a show. She did a whole lot of prep work for the banquet and every aspect of the event captured her vision.
4/28/2025 8:56:09	Katharina Findlater	Business Affairs	9	Katharina has gone above and beyond for the last 4 years to assist me in making the Staff Employee of the Year event amazing. She has volunteered her time and skillset in such an incredibly generous and humble way. I am grateful for her willingness to jump in, her professionalism, her eye for detail. She gets things done and done well! I appreciate her and want to honor her today!
4/29/2025 16:26:32	Savannah Powell	Undergraduate Admissions	2	Savannah is consistently going above and beyond to support the team's needs! Even though her role does not necessarily include the day-to-day tasks of phones, walk-ins and emails, Savannah is often helping with those tasks without even being asked. A true team player!
4/30/2025 8:42:51	Lora Bassett	Controller's Office	9	Lora cares and goes above and beyond every single day! She is always working to assist others and be sure that they have whatever they need. Her character, work ethic, organization, know how, congeniality and eagerness to help and do for others has been especially evident during the Reese window replacement project. She has steered all efforts and supported staff throughout the project. This has impacted me most directly recently as she has assisted me and others preparing our spaces. She makes sure that we have boxes, recycle bins, know what we are supposed to do and helps us to GET IT DONE! She goes above and beyond every single day!

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4/30/2025 17:12:56	Jenna Duncan and Wendy Fishman	Both CoA+A: Jenna Duncan, Storrs Hall, and Wendy Fishman, Dubois Center	18	<p>It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Jenna Duncan and Wendy Fishman for the Golden Nugget Award, recognizing their remarkable partnership in preserving and showcasing the artistic heritage of our university's College of Arts + Architecture. Through their complementary roles and seamless collaboration, they have created a living archive that transforms Robinson Hall into a vibrant testament to our institution's cultural legacy.</p> <p><b>Impact on University Legacy:</b>  Jenna Duncan, as Visual Resources Lecturer, has dedicated over 25 years to meticulously curating our ArtStor collection and preserving the historical artifacts of CoA+A. Her meticulous attention to detail and deep institutional knowledge have created a comprehensive digital archive that serves as the foundation for our visual history. Simultaneously, Wendy Fishman, as Director of Collaborative Works, has brought visionary leadership to selecting and presenting these historical treasures through carefully curated wall panels on the building side facing the Quad in Robinson Hall.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Achievements:</b>  <b>Integrated Historical Preservation:</b> Together, they have developed a sophisticated system combining digital archiving with physical display, creating an immersive experience that bridges past and present  <b>Cross-Disciplinary Storytelling:</b> Their joint efforts have unified the narratives of dance, music, theater, and the art and art history departments, revealing the interconnected nature of our artistic community  <b>Strategic Visual Documentation:</b> They have methodically documented performances, exhibitions, and concerts, transforming ephemeral moments into permanent institutional memory  <b>Campus Engagement:</b> Their collaborative installations in Robinson Hall serve as a dynamic reminder of our collective artistic heritage, fostering community pride and historical awareness  <b>Specific Contributions:</b>  Jenna Duncan's Key Accomplishments:  Manages the University's Visual Resources Collection which includes ArtStor, a sustainable online collection of digital images, sound, and video resources at UNC Charlotte  Developed systematic preservation methods for artistic ephemera  Curates accessible digital archives spanning decades of CoA+A history  Ensured long-term preservation of fragile historical materials for nearly 30 years at UNC Charlotte  Wendy Fishman's Visionary Leadership:  Coordinated the strategic wall panel installations with Charlotte community member, James Zambrano  Curated selections that highlight pivotal moments in departmental history  Coordinated cross-departmental collaborations for maximum impact  Created engaging visual narratives that stimulate institutional memory  <b>Collective Impact</b>  Their partnership has achieved something truly remarkable – transforming Robinson Hall into a living museum of our artistic heritage. Their collaborative efforts have:</p> <p>Created engaging visual displays that unite our artistic disciplines  Established a model for interdisciplinary collaboration  Enhanced campus culture through accessible art history  Provided invaluable resources for research and education  Through their dedicated collaboration, Jenna Duncan and Wendy Fishman have not only preserved our institution's artistic legacy but have made it vibrantly alive and accessible to our entire university community. Their quiet dedication and professional excellence embody the spirit of collaboration that makes our institution stronger, and their contributions deserve recognition through this award.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this nomination.</p>