

May 2025 Golden Nuggets

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
5/5/2025	James Braman	Housing and Residence Life	5	James stepped into the graduate assistant role in November of 2024. He has seamlessly gotten closer with the staff and done his best to try to get to know them. He is very engaging and passionate about supporting the staff and the students in the building. I really appreciate his eagerness and excitement to help residents and staff.
5/6/2025	Vernon Haley	Human Resources	2	It is my pleasure to nominate Vernon Haley for a Golden Nugget. Vernon is consistently helpful and also responsive to my needs, whether it is walking out how to build a FAQ or navigating the LOD Portal as a user or trainer. His interactions are always pleasant, making him a joy to partner with. His dedication to supporting his team and positive attitude makes him an invaluable asset to our department and university as a whole. His contributions deserve to be recognized.
5/7/2025	Christopher Walls	First Year & Transition Programs	3	They are deserving of Kudos recognition for being a part of the inaugural cohort of First-Generation Champions. We want to share this message: Congratulations on completing First-Generation Champion Series! You filled the space with energy, passion, and commitment. We hope you'll carry your learning with you and build on the relationships you started. Thank you for being our FIRST group of First-Generation Champions.
5/7/2025	Lizet Garcia	Transition & Success Initiatives	11	Liz is deserving of recognition for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the Transition & Belonging team. If you were to silently observe them, you'd have no understanding that this is their first full-time role in higher education. They are attentive, passionate, and bring joy and life into the office.
5/7/2025	Karyn Williamson-Coria	CHESS Interdisciplinary Studies	6	Karyn manages over 50 funds for IDST 5 major concentrations, 8 minors and 4 graduate certificates. It is a lot of juggling of funds. Not only that, the requests come from many faculty and affiliate faculty from different departments so she has to reconcile across funds and departments. She has done an outstanding job of reconciling all the funding, keeping us on track and helping us spend our funds in order to further our educational goals within the program. She's nothing short of amazing!
5/7/2025	Emmi Conner	CHESS Interdisciplinary Studies	6	Emmi has surpassed all expectations for two major programs this year. The first is scheduling. Emmi manages the scheduling for five interdisciplinary major concentrations, and eight minors among various faculty. The scheduling includes many, many cross listed courses that she has to keep track of. She has done an outstanding job and helped make this process seamless! The second program is Concur. Emmi has learned this program and enabled our faculty to manage travel and other expenses through the program with ease. She is available and helpful to all needing Concur help. She is a team player and willing to help us all.

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5/8/2025	Kenza Mitchem	College of Engineering-OSDS	8	<p>Kenza Mitchem has just celebrated one year of being part of the college's OSDS (Office of Student Development and Success) team. During this past year, she has gone above and beyond in many areas.</p> <p>She has trained a colleague on Banner Finances despite it not being in her job description. She has spent countless hours assisting this person as they continue to learn as they are new to the university.</p> <p>Kenza continues training and supporting another new OSDS colleague. She provides weekly if not daily support for this person on the university's systems and helping them understand how the university works. This again is not in her job description. However, she continues to help and support these two colleagues with a positive attitude.</p> <p>It does not stop there, Kenza helped redesign our main office to turn it into a welcoming study and workplace for our students. She put together tables and chairs, set up coffee/tea and snack station (an maintains it daily) along with other positive and encouraging decor for our students. The student flock to this space daily and are always happy to see and chat with Kenza. She is almost like the "mother hen" for them and they love it. She listens to them when they are stressed or concerned and is just a friendly, positive person. Something many of our students need, especially our freshman.</p> <p>Kenza also go above and beyond to support over 15+ OSDS staff and faculty members and an Assistant Dean. She also is in charge of all the phone calls that come into the College of Engineering. Her upbeat personality and her team spirit is amazing. I could write 3 more pages of all the wonderful accomplishments and services Kenza provides to our internal and external customer.</p> <p>I cannot think of anyone who is more deserving of this Golden Nugget award than her. She is truly our prized unsung hero in OSDS and the College of Engineering.</p>
5/12/2025	Taniqua Canzater	Belk College - Undergraduate Programs	18	<p>Ms Canzater has been with our office though many transitions and has taken them in stride. Starting as a graduate assistant she stepped up to the plate to meet with students, manage projects, and still maintained her coursework in her Ph.D. program. Now that she has a full time role in Belk College she has taken on the many responsibilities while writing her dissertation. Ms. Canzater goes above and beyond for students and is a great team member. She is always willing to help, even when she should be taking a break. I think that is work deserving of a golden nugget.</p>
5/12/2025	Andrea ("Andi") Marrs	Prospect Strategy and Research University Advancement	11	<p>I'm thrilled to nominate Andi Marrs for a Golden Nugget Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and dedication during this year's Niner Nation Gives campaign. As the director of the Unit Strategy and Challenge Gifts Subcommittee, Andi stepped up in a major way during a critical time - our 10th anniversary NNG campaign - especially with her supervisor, Emily Allegro, out on maternity leave.</p> <p>Despite the increased goals and pressure, Andi led with enthusiasm, professionalism, and precision. She ensured every challenge gift was thoughtfully coordinated, accurately tracked, and clearly communicated with units and donors. Her focus on quality over quantity paid off in a big way: over 89% of challenges were successfully unlocked - surpassing our ambitious 80% goal.</p> <p>Andi's initiative, attention to detail, and support for our Donor Experience Officers and Major Gift Officers made an immeasurable impact. Her ability to fill gaps, manage complex logistics, and still exceed expectations speaks volumes about her commitment to UNC Charlotte and to getting the job done, and getting it done RIGHT! We are grateful for her leadership, and we know Emily will be proud of the incredible work Andi accomplished in her absence.</p> <p>Way to go, Andi - you truly crushed it!</p>

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5/12/2025	Vicky Harris	School of Social Work	7	As the School of Social Work continues to grow, we've been fortunate to add new faculty positions. With that growth comes the many tasks involved in faculty searches. Thankfully, we had Vicky Harris, our amazing Program Associate, assisting us every step of the way. Vicky has been a steady, reliable presence throughout the search process. She knows the ins and outs, always has answers (or knows where to find them), and brings a kind, caring, and professional attitude to everything she does. Simply put, we couldn't have done it without her. Her support has made a big difference in our search efforts, and we're so grateful to have her as part of the School of Social Work.
5/13/2025	Pam Duff	OneIT FIS	4	<p>Pam is as consistent and thorough as anyone can be. She is quick to help in every aspect of a request, including helping to write the request in the first place just from hearing about the need in passing conversation. Her being proactive everytime helps our team get things done efficiently and helps us stay productive. To be honest this nomination is way over due and words can't express enough how much Pam has gone above and beyond to help me and my team. If success really is just being there 88% of the time, then Pam is there 110% of the time. Her professionalism and devotion to serving others is awesome. I feel like a Golden Nugget nomination is great way to let her know my appreciation for all of the things she does to make this campus run smoothly. Her actions are often seamless and behind the scenes but very impactful and needed.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Don Gariepy Mechanical and Plumbing Manager UNC Charlotte Facilities Management</p>
5/13/2025	Tom Deyo	OneIT	4	<p>Tom Deyo has recently helped me with several laptop issues and upgrades to my work laptop. That by itself may not seem worthy of a Golden Nugget but it was not just that he was there doing a service per his job. Tom has helped me several times over the last 8 years and everytime he has been exceptional in how he has handled my most important tasks that make it possible for me to even do my job. He first coordinated every service to meet my calendar needs. Then he would always come to me and talk to me directly about my issues and ensure that my specific needs were met. When I thought there were lost folders on my laptop that I could not recover Tom created and new folder on my new laptop that included the folders that I was looking for and couldn't find. He made sure I had enough time to back up everything and only came to take the old laptop when I was ready for him to take it. This made me feel like I was the only client he was serving and I know that is simply not the case. Tom is a hero in our office, often being stopped while walking bye to get asked to look at an issue and he typically solves it right on the spot. Tom is very deserving of a Golden Nugget and it is my pleasure to nominate him.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Don Gariepy Mechanical and Plumbing Manager Facilities Management</p>
5/14/2025	Joseph Coleman	Facilities Management Zone 1	15B	<p>Joe is a great asset to the Facilities Management Zone 1 office and the University. He has excellent customer service and knows what it is to help others. Joe helped our office save money and completed a job for us in a timely manner. He understood the limited timeline we were under to have the job completed. He provides exemplary work on campus everyday. Thanks Joe for a great job well Done. Know that you are appreciated.</p> <p>Thanks Lora Bassett and The Controller's office</p>

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5/14/2025	Michael Watts	Facilities Management Zone 1	15B	Mike is a great asset to the Facilities Management Zone 1 office and the University. He has excellent customer service and knows what it is to help others. Mike helped our office save money and completed a job for us in a timely manner. He understood the limited timeline we were under to have the job completed. He provides exemplary work on campus everyday. Thanks Mike for a great job well Done. Know that you are appreciated. Thanks Lora Bassett and The Controller's office
5/22/2025	Tabitha Adaya	Business Services Marketing	16	Golden Nugget Award Nomination for Tabitha Adaya Tabitha Adaya exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond in service to UNC Charlotte. Her outstanding leadership and dedication were on full display in planning and executing the first annual Niner Aux Guide Banquet. This signature event was more than a celebration—it was a meaningful recognition of the students who played a vital role in shaping and advancing Business Services' marketing strategy. From concept to execution, Tabitha took initiative, infused creativity, and managed countless details to ensure the banquet's success. She collaborated across departments, engaged students with sincerity, and created an event that not only honored their contributions but also strengthened their connection to the University. Her attention to detail, thoughtful programming, and professional execution made the evening unforgettable for all attendees. Tabitha's commitment to student engagement and staff collaboration reflects the spirit of the Golden Nugget Award. Her efforts brought visibility to a new initiative that enhances the student experience while supporting strategic goals. The Niner Aux Guide Banquet set a new standard for student recognition events and would not have been possible without Tabitha's passion, perseverance, and genuine care for the UNC Charlotte community. She is truly deserving of this recognition.
5/20/2025	DeErra Bradley	Business Services AVC	16	Golden Nugget Award Nomination for DeErra Bradley I would like to nominate DeErra Bradley for the UNC Charlotte Staff Council Golden Nugget Award in recognition of her outstanding dedication and support with a recent student focus group event. When faced with a last-minute need to figure out payment for catering, DeErra stepped up without hesitation to ensure everything was handled correctly. With very little notice, and staying past 5 p.m. to do so, DeErra took on the responsibility of processing the necessary paperwork and ensure timely payment. Without her extra effort and commitment, the catering would not have been possible, and the student experience would have been greatly diminished. DeErra's actions reflect an exceptional level of teamwork, accountability, and care for both students and colleagues. Her willingness to go above and beyond demonstrates the kind of service and spirit that all employees in our area should strive for.
5/28/2025	Jennifer Campbell	Financial Services	9	During our Chancellor's Staff Appreciation event on May 22nd Jennifer has helped me tremendously, preparing for the event and especially during with organizing the donations. She did not hesitate to step in and help me and even offered to drive the donations to Niner Elementary. I really appreciate her and I could have not done it without her.
5/28/2025	Lora Bassett	Controller's Office	9	During our Chancellor's Staff Appreciation event on May 22nd Lora has helped me tremendously by organizing the donations and greeting our guests. She did not hesitate to step in and help me and I really appreciate her. I could have not done it without her.

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5/28/2025	Nikki Kawalec	Human Resources	2	During our Chancellor's Staff Appreciation event on May 22nd Nikki has helped me tremendously by greeting all of our guest with her positive nature and guiding them to all of our food station. She added something special to the event as she always does by simply being herself and I am so glad that she was there. She did not hesitate to step in and help me and I really appreciate her. I could have not done it without her.
5/30/2025	Kelly Freshcorn	FM BES/R	12	Kelly, provided excellent customer service, helping my shops become compliant with our EHS audit findings. Kelly helped coordinate an effort to remove universal waste and recycling items from our shop in the FOPS building. She was super quick in her response to our needs, and because of that, we were able to pass our inspection. We really appreciate her commitment to service. Sincerely, Don Gariepy
5/31/2025	Matt Wyse	Academic Affairs	9	Matt provided great support to the Faculty Council leadership and their subcommittees this year, including curricular support that required tight deadlines. His teamwork and leadership is very appreciated!
5/31/2025	PJ Frick	Academic Affairs	9	PJ successfully launched the new Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs this week, ahead of schedule. This is particularly noteworthy due to some tight curricular deadlines this year. She is a great asset to the team and her attention to detail is second to none!