

October 2025 Golden Nuggets

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
10/1/2025	Delicia Ofikulu	Military and Veteran Services	11	I would like to recognize her for her tireless dedication in helping me transition into my new role. From day one, she has been a constant source of support and guidance—not just for me, but also for our work-study students. She answers every question with patience, even when they're repeated, and always makes time to help, all while managing her own responsibilities with grace and professionalism. Her willingness to share her knowledge and her calm, encouraging presence have made a huge difference. I'm truly grateful to be on a team with her.
10/1/2025	Michael Lang	CRES	17	Michael was instrumental in helping our college during our 26th Annual Cybersecurity Symposium. Dealing with multiple meetings over several months, dozens of shifts, pivots, and last minute changes, he was calm, cool, collected, and always willing to help. He even went as far as to help some of our staff walk materials back to Woodward Hall after the two-day event. Michael is professional, personable, and a great campus partner.
10/1/2025	Becky Giroux-Boucher	CCI - Dean's Office	8	To put it as simply as I can, the 26th Annual Cybersecurity Symposium would not have happened if it were not for Becky's tireless organization, dedication, and incredible hard work. Becky kept us on track during months of meetings, served as go-between from symposium organizers and CRES, Chartwells, as well as multiple outside industry partners. She came in early. She stayed late when needed. She got so much work done in spite of multiple challenges. Becky is beyond worthy of recognition for her contributions to the success of this event and so much more for our college.
10/1/2025	Kimberlee Summerville	CCI - Student Center	8	Kimberlee provided instrumental support during our recent 26th Annual Cybersecurity Symposium. She volunteered for various duties as part of the planning committee, made great suggestions which resulted in time-saving actions, and was always present, willing to help during the two days of the event. Kimberlee's a positive attitude provided an excellent experience for our students, industry partners, faculty and staff during the lead up to and throughout the event.
10/2/2025	Anthony Green	Grounds	15A	Anthony made sure that our tables and chairs were setup on an extremely short time frame and notice for our 10th Annual Transportation Fair. When we arrived for our Transportation Fair, we were excited and very pleased to see the tables and chairs ready well before the beginning of the event. Anthony's extra effort to ensure that we were ready for our vendors and campus partners to set up, was integral to our success of the event and cannot be overstated.
10/2/2025	Nicole McKenna	Mail & Package Services	16	Nicole consistently goes above and beyond when providing customer service both in person and over the phone. She is a team player, is always willing to help, and her presence brightens the office. She also has taken the lead in training new student employees and staff. She is a valuable asset to my team and I would like her to be recognized.

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10/9/2025	KaWon Taylor	Popp Martin Student Union	17	We hosted our Part-Time Job Fair in the PMSU, 340 yesterday. I had arrived before my team just to make sure everything was in order. KaWon, along with the BM in training and another staff member, had come up to the floor to get some signage, but KaWon stopped to say hello and see if I needed any assistance. We were missing some items, and Kawon immediately took charge to help get the items setup, along with answering any questions I had about the event day. I brought up the topic about parking since we had an employer with a vehicle over 9 ft., it wouldn't go into the garage and needed to unload his items. We discovered that morning the parking deck elevator wasn't working, so again KaWon took action. He took to to the loading lock area so we could have access for the employer to unload and get items easily to the 3rd floor AND spoke with a manager, Steve, to see if there was a location near the building to park so the employer didn't have to park at lot 27, behind the Alumni House and walk back to the union for the event. He proceeded to pop in to make sure everything was good, including getting us the tech staff for additional needs not setup yet. As people, we don't give thanks and praise even when it's due, but I really wanted to commend his commitment to service and outstanding representation of the Popp Martin Student Union. I hope I get to work with KaWon for future events as he exemplified Niner Pride yesterday. Thank you and your team for all the support you provide the Career Center to bring service and programming to our students. It takes a team!
10/9/2025	Jay Skipworth	College of Computing and Informatics	8	Jay is an exemplary employee, mentor, and friend. He is consistently present, always ready to assist, and goes the extra mile to make events—and life in general—better for both students and colleagues. He doesn't shy away from hard work or limit himself to what's comfortable. Instead, Jay steps up wherever help is needed, often volunteering his time and expertise to support others. Whether it's offering a helping hand, solving unexpected challenges, or simply showing up with a positive attitude, Jay has saved the day more times than I can count. He is the kind of person every workplace wishes they had—and we are incredibly fortunate to have him. Jay deserves a barrel full of Golden Nuggets for the incredible impact he makes every single day.
10/9/2025	Kimberlee Summerville	CCI; College of Computing and Informatics	8	We are incredibly fortunate to have Kimberlee on our team. With a style that's youthful and hip and a grace well beyond her years, Kimberlee brings a unique presence to the Student Center. She is thoughtful, informed, kind, and genuinely sincere—qualities that make her beloved by our students, as well as by faculty, staff, and guests who pass through Woodward Hall. I'm nominating Kimberlee because she exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond. While “wearing a smile every day” may not be in her official job description, she brings one anyway—along with a warm, welcoming energy that transforms the Student Center into a place where students feel comfortable to stop in, chat, and connect. Kimberlee doesn't just fulfill her role; she embraces it, nurtures it, and elevates it. That's what sets her apart, and we are all better for having her here.

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10/9/2025	Helen Giroux	Facilities Management	15A	Helen has been a quiet force of excellence at UNC Charlotte for over a decade—a true silent hero within her department. Exceptionally organized and deeply dedicated, she consistently goes above and beyond her role to make life simpler and better for her colleagues and supervisors. She is a friendly, familiar face beloved across campus—the kind of person you want representing UNC Charlotte. Helen not only performs her job with precision and care, but she also actively researches and refines processes to lighten the workload for her team. Her depth of experience makes her a guiding presence in her department, offering insight and stability that benefit everyone around her. I want to be clear: I don't say any of this just because Helen is my mother—though I'll proudly say she's the best mother in the world. I say it because she is truly a model employee, the kind of professional I've always looked up to. She consistently knocks it out of the park and absolutely deserves to be recognized and honored for her outstanding contributions.
10/10/2025	Becky Giroux-Boucher, Kimberlee Summerville, Jay Skipworth, Michael Christenbury, Gideon Padgett, Leeisha Williams, Gina Rizzo, Jacob Rogers, Jon Billings, Michael Avery, Stephen Snipes	Multiple		Thank you for making the 26th Annual UNC Charlotte Cybersecurity Symposium a huge success. Not only was it one of the biggest, it was one of the most successful to date. Your areas went out of the way to take on logistics responsibilities above and beyond your normal duties. We appreciate all of you for masterfully managing the logistics and ensuring that every detail came together seamlessly. You are all the behind the scenes that makes everything actually happen and deserve to be recognized for a job well done. On to next year!
10/15/2025	Mariah Huffman	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadavera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!

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10/15/2025	Taylor Yonemura	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!
10/15/2025	Mary Duke	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!
10/15/2025	Jennifer Bueno	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!

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10/15/2025	Michelle Teague	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!
10/15/2025	Zada McCoy	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!
10/15/2025	Bryan Goddard	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!

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10/15/2025	Jeff Gillman	KCOS - Botanical Gardens	6	I am nominating our entire Botanical Gardens team for their hard work and dedication on 3 recent events. In less than one month we had 2 large, scheduled events, Woodland Wonderfest and the Fall Plant Sale. Each of these events are huge undertakings for our staff. Right in between we had Cadavera the Corpse Flower bloom. This is a last minute event that the team pulled together beautifully. We put up lights, made stickers, created signage, plastered social media, and on and on. We hosted approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadevera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadvera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! The staff worked a VERY long day that day, to return the next morning to open the plant sale for its members and the campus community. I cannot thank the staff enough for their dedication and hard work for these events and the gardens in general!
10/15/2025	Jennifer Conway	KCOS - Communications	11	I am nominating Jenn for her recent work with the Botanical Gardens promoting the blooming of Cadavera the Corpse Flower. She worked tirelessly in the days leading up to the opening marketing Cadavera and the Gardens. Her work helped us to reach approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadavera. We stayed open and received visitors until 2am the day Cadavera opened to allow guests the opportunity to “enjoy” the smell and see the full opening. There was a joyous feel in the air while some waited over 2 hours in line to visit! Not to mention arranging for the webcam that reached many more!
10/15/2025	Kat Lawrence	University Communications - Div of University Advancement	11	I am nominating Kat for her recent work with the Botanical Gardens promoting the blooming of Cadavera the Corpse Flower. Her work helped us to reach approximately 7500 guests that visited Cadavera, and more that viewed on the webcam.
10/16/2025	Max Rogers	CRES	17	Thank you Max for your outstanding support during a recent event. While I was attending to another urgent matter in a different building on campus, Max stepped in without hesitation (who was actually at lunch at the time!) to check on the catering setup for dessert and ensure everything ran smoothly. His attention to detail and willingness to take initiative helped the event stay on track and provided great support to our team. His teamwork and dependability truly made a difference.
10/16/2025	Caleb Holguin	CRES	17	Thank you Caleb for your outstanding support during a recent event. While I was at an off campus meeting, Caleb stepped in without hesitation (early in the morning too!) to check on the room setups and ensure the doors were unlocked for the start of the event. His attention to detail and willingness to take initiative helped the event stay on track and provided great support to our team. His teamwork and dependability truly made a difference.
10/19/2025	Antonio Smith	Cone Center (manager)	17	Antonio Smith is the example of a jack of all trades. A great example of Leadership. Antonio checks in on his staff, He makes sure we have everything we need and if it is another body he will come in and work. Antonio explains thing clearly when need and corrects professionally when needed. We need more like him. The Cone building and Popp Martin building can relax with a Leader like Antonio.

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10/20/2025	Mark Parker	University Recreation	13	During an extremely busy week of projects, on top of regular duties, Mark performed above expectations in accomplishing our tasks. never wavered or complained. Even took the initiative to shovel stones and pull weeds around the UREC outdoor BB and VBall courts by himself to improve the appearance. Appreciate Mark!
10/21/2025	Adrian Jelley	OneIT	4	I would like to recognize Adrian Jelley for his outstanding support in troubleshooting a network issue with the Extron product connected to the TV in McEniry. Adrian took his time and worked with me for over an hour and a half, running multiple tests and carefully analyzing every detail to ensure the issue was fully resolved. His patience, technical expertise, and dedication to finding a solution were truly impressive. Adrian was amazing to work with professional, collaborative, and thorough throughout the entire process. He's a great asset to have on any team, and his commitment to excellence made a real difference in getting everything back up and running smoothly.
10/21/2025	Brandon Chap	OneIT	4	I would like to recognize Brandon Chap for being an incredible asset to our team. Brandon is highly knowledgeable, dependable, and brings exceptional troubleshooting skills to every project he works on. He consistently takes the time to understand each issue in depth and effectively breaks down complex problems into manageable solutions. His patience, technical expertise, and willingness to help others make him an invaluable teammate and a true professional to work with. Brandon's proactive approach and problem-solving mindset greatly contribute to the success of our team, and I truly appreciate his dedication and positive attitude.
10/28/2025	John Woodward	Facilities Management	15B	I put in a work request to have a spooky (bright red) light in our office suite replaced. John took the time to inspect the entire suite. He also checked the lights in the hallway and removed the bugs. We really appreciated the effort he put in.
10/28/2025	Jenn Howe	University Communications	11	Thanks to Jenn and Alex for helping move the semesterly Health and Wellbeing email into a special edition of Niner Insider for the first time -- and for all the ongoing messaging and news support in general. We appreciate it!
10/28/2025	Alex Reynolds	University Communications	11	Thanks to Alex and Jenn for helping move the semesterly Health and Wellbeing email into a special edition of Niner Insider for the first time -- and for all the ongoing messaging and news support in general. We appreciate it!
10/31/2025	Amanda Felock	FM- Planning, Design and Construction	15A	Amanda is wonderful to work with and has a very positive approach to finding solutions. She is thorough and ensures she finds answers. Amanda is a great colleague and represents UNC Charlotte well!