

March 2026 Golden Nuggets

Date of submission	Nominee's Name	Nominee's Department	Area #	Reason for nomination
3/6/2026	Tracy Beauregard	Office of the Registrar	2	Tracy is extremely helpful and incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to the graduation pre-clearance process. She has a talent for breaking down complex information in campus forums, and her friendly, welcoming attitude makes me feel comfortable asking questions. I truly enjoy working with her!
3/7/2026	Carla Soto	SAC	14	I want to nominate Carla, because she not only fulfills her responsibilities, but she consistently exceeds expectations and makes a fundamental contribution to the team's success."
3/7/2026	Edwin Castaneda	sac	14	I want to thank Edwin for the excellent leadership he provides to our team.
3/9/2026	Patrick Logan Deese	Sports Medicine - Athletic Trainer for Men's Soccer	14	I would like to nominate Patrick "Logan" Deese for the Golden Nugget Award in recognition of his exceptional dedication to UNC Charlotte Athletics and our student-athletes. While continuing to manage the full responsibilities of Men's Soccer, he stepped up during a staffing vacancy to also provide coverage for Men's Tennis, ensuring both programs received consistent, high-quality care. Taking on the demands of two teams required significant extra time, flexibility, and commitment, yet he approached the challenge with a positive attitude and a true team-first mindset. His willingness to go above and beyond maintained continuity of care for our student-athletes and provided valuable support to his department during a challenging time, exemplifying the professionalism, collaboration, and service that this award represents.
3/10/2026	Jane Hawes	Travel	9	I always have a ton questions about travel and Jane is always helpful and quick to respond.
3/10/2026	Amber Parks	Financial Services	4	Concur is consistently changing and Amber Parks is so helpful and when responds quickly if I have a problem or question.
3/20/2026	Pamela "P.J." Frick	Office of Academic Affairs	9	PJ does a fantastic job as Catalog Editor. This year when it was time for our office to review our catalog's non-curricular sections, I asked for one business day extension on the deadline as I had recently returned from FMLA. PJ graciously granted that extension to me. I enthusiastically forged ahead merging duplicate text, rearranging paragraphs, deleting text, and updating test score requirements. When I was done, the edits were substantial, and I was not sure anyone would understand what I had done. PJ did. Not only did she figure out the changes I needed, she went above and beyond by sending a new revised document for me to review to make sure the edits were made appropriately. I really appreciated having a second opportunity to verify they looked good before the catalog went to print. I'd like to add PJ presented a well-organized structure and method for offices to made edits. PJ has a keen eye for detail. While reviewing a curriculog proposal for a new concentration in teaching, she noticed one of the admission requirements needed to be a sub-bullet - or else it would look like there were two requirements instead of one requirement that accepted an alternative item. I appreciate PJ's dedication to ensuring the catalog is correct - and not simply updated.
3/20/2026	Casey LeBlanc	OneIT Client Engagement (Cato Hall)	4	Casey LeBlanc and Adrian Jelley have been nothing short of extraordinary in their support of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. For months, as we wrestled with relentless and often daily issues with our new Dell computers, they showed up every single time with unmatched responsiveness, deep patience, and a laser-focused commitment to finding solutions. Their positivity never wavered, even when our frustrations ran high, and their professionalism set the gold standard for what true customer service looks like. Casey and Adrian didn't just help us troubleshoot; they restored our ability to do our work with confidence. Their dedication, consistency, and above-and-beyond spirit make them shining examples of excellence and incredibly deserving of a Golden Nugget.
3/20/2026	Adrian Jelley	OneIT Client Engagement (Cato Hall)	4	Casey LeBlanc and Adrian Jelley have been nothing short of extraordinary in their support of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. For months, as we wrestled with relentless and often daily issues with our new Dell computers, they showed up every single time with unmatched responsiveness, deep patience, and a laser-focused commitment to finding solutions. Their positivity never wavered, even when our frustrations ran high, and their professionalism set the gold standard for what true customer service looks like. Casey and Adrian didn't just help us troubleshoot; they restored our ability to do our work with confidence. Their dedication, consistency, and above-and-beyond spirit make them shining examples of excellence and incredibly deserving of a Golden Nugget.
3/20/2026	Darlene Johnson	Facilities Management	12	Ms. Darlene has kept our very busy labs clean and safe for our faculty and students for a number of months. She has recently been relocated and we are so sad to see her move. We love her positive personality and her attention to tiny details. Our students, faculty, and staff have always looked forward to seeing and speaking with her. We miss you and your dedication to excellence!
3/24/2026	Tabitha McDaniel	University College	3	Tabitha helped to lead her unit during Niner Nation Gives - she truly led, when no one was looking, making sure that she had the right access to update the website for UCOL, she took the lead for the Built on Thanks unit pop-up event (which was new this year), and she was the MOST enthusiastic staff member that I have seen to help get students to the table to write thank you notes to donors. She truly went above and beyond for her college.

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3/25/2026	Iris Driver	Human Resources	2	<p>I would like to take a moment to recognize and sincerely express my appreciation for Iris Driver.</p> <p>Iris provided exceptional support to both me and Facilities Management as we worked through a challenging employee disciplinary process. Throughout this time, she consistently offered thoughtful guidance, clear direction, and steady support. Her expertise and attention to detail were invaluable, particularly in ensuring that all documentation was handled appropriately.</p> <p>I especially appreciated her candid feedback and professional insight. As I navigated a complex situation, Iris served as a trusted resource, always available and willing to help guide me in the right direction. During the PDC meeting, she also demonstrated a high level of emotional intelligence, setting a strong example of professionalism and composure.</p> <p>I am truly grateful for her partnership and support. Her contributions made a meaningful impact, and I believe she is very deserving of recognition.</p> <p>Thank you, Iris, for your continued guidance and dedication</p>
3/26/2026	Kaitlyn Kubacki	Admissions	2	<p>Kaitlyn is a fabulous campus partner for the CHHS Advising Center. She has been available by chat numerous times to quickly provide expertise and advice for how to manage student roadblocks. That includes her willingness to jump on a phone call to think through a best practice (pre-nursing admission pipeline) and helping get transcripts to the registrar's office for timely articulation. She has positively impacted the student/advisor experience and is my go to for any student admission issues.</p>
3/26/2026	Amy Stonehouse	CHHS Advising Center	7	<p>Amy spearheaded a recent effort to order new promotional items for our team. She gathered information from two vendors and intentionally collected team feedback to ensure products met our needs. She is creating a guide for employees to understand the intricacies of the process that involved vendors and budget items. Items have arrived and the team is thrilled with the results! Thank you Amy for stepping up to complete this need.</p>
3/31/2026	Nicolas Williams	Counseling & Psychological Services	13	<p>Going above and beyond to ensure the safety of a student in need.</p>
3/31/2026	Miltonjha Grier	Counseling & Psychological Services	13	<p>Going above and beyond to help a student in need and her friend and co-worker. Remaining calm in a difficult situation can sometimes be difficult but she handled the situation with so much grace and understanding.</p>
3/31/2026	Cindy Zhang	Mail & Package Services	16	<p>Cindy always bring a positive and cheerful attitude to work. She exceeds expectations regularly and outperforms her co-workers when processing mail and selling stamps. She is efficient and accurate in her work and is a valuable asset to her team.</p>
3/31/2026	Nicole Beckham	Mail & Package Services	16	<p>Nicole is an asset to the Mail Services team. She is efficient in her duties but where Nicole really shines is in her sense of humor and ability to make others smile. Nicole brings a lot of joy and laughter to the office and she is a great dancer :)</p>
3/31/2026	Mahalah Dalton	Belk College of Business Dean's Office	18	<p>Since day one at the Belk College of Business, Mahalah Dalton has been an exceptional resource and a true pillar of support. From the very beginning, she has stayed on top of every question related to contracts, payments, and systems, always ready with a knowledgeable and timely answer.</p> <p>Most recently, Mahalah went above and beyond to support our students during SHRM Day, the UNC Charlotte Student Chapter event on March 26th. She not only provided valuable resources to help make the event a success, but also offered thoughtful guidance on who else could assist with other needs, going well beyond what was asked of her.</p> <p>Mahalah consistently represents UNC Charlotte with professionalism, dedication, and genuine care for the people around her. I am truly grateful for everything she does, and I know the university is fortunate to have her as part of the team. Thank you, Mahalah, you make a real difference!</p>

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3/31/2026	Jessica Kapota	Human Resources	2	<p>Jessica Kapota is an exceptional professional who consistently goes above and beyond in her role as Director of Learning and Organizational Development at UNC Charlotte.</p> <p>This month, I had the privilege of participating in a mentorship training for staff and faculty organized by Jessica and her team. I was truly impressed by how well-prepared and engaged she was throughout the session — jumping in to support her LOD analysts and ensuring everything ran seamlessly. Her leadership and hands-on involvement made the experience both impactful and inspiring.</p> <p>Additionally, Jessica went the extra mile earlier this month by accepting my invitation for a talk to my class at Belk College of Business, MGMT 3140 – Management and Organizational Behavior. She delivered an awesome lecture, even after a full day of work, since it was, after her regular working hours. All 60 of my students were captivated. She brilliantly connected theory to real-world industry practice, showcasing the outstanding work UNC Charlotte's LOD team does across all functions: planning, developing, executing, and measuring learning initiatives. She also raised important awareness about mandatory training programs, including Active Assailant Training for emergency situations, giving students a deeper appreciation of how this university prioritizes safety and preparedness, and how HR AND Los functions are essential in an organization.</p> <p>Jessica is a remarkable leader who uplifts staff, faculty, and students alike. She is a true example of strategic leadership, and UNC Charlotte is fortunate to have her. Thank you, Jessica — your dedication, passion, and generosity make this university a better place for all of us!</p>