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Minerva Tahnett Mack	Payroll	9	Tahnett recently helped one of my team members through a complicated issue related to student workers. Once she noticed a problem, she went out of her way to contact him immediately, and explained what action was needed. Her actions demonstrated clear expertise in her area, but that's not what inspires this nomination. In my opinion, Tahnett deserves a Golden Nugget for being clear, supportive, and, most importantly, calm and positive in all her communications with this team member, who was facing a new-to-them problem with potentially severe consequences. Thank you, Tahnett!
Paul Dilgard	BUILDING ENVORMENTAL TECH	15	Mr. Paul is always ready to give a helping hand to all of his employees. He is very understanding. If the crew has a problem concerning work or how to do a job he is always there to help. Paul is a very hard worker, He is not only a supervisor but a worker as well.
Mark Hamrick	OneIT	4	It may be a little complicated to describe however, a very important teaching and research software was rendered unusable by a licensing renewal issue. Once the software issue was identified, Mark worked efficiently tirelessly to solve the problem. Something that could have taken a day ended up being resolved by his quick thinking and scripting. My class is back in business!

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Keyonna Joyner	TRIO Student Support Services	3	Keyonna is a partner who has showcased commitment and unwavering support early, as she has reentered Charlotte. She supported our new First-Gen students by connecting through passive and active engagement opportunities. This showcased care for our First-Generation students and helped create a supportive, welcoming presence. The event was stronger with Keyonna's support, and while brand new to F1GS, she is already showing up and showing out for our First-Generation Community.
Lydia Rodriguez	TRIO Student Support Services	3	Lydia is a GOLDEN F1GS member. She is constantly offering support, guidance, and care for our First-Generation Niners. Most recently, she supported our First-Generation Meet & Greet, allowing over 100 First-Gen Niners to learn about the community of care around them. For Lydia, all support is meaningful, whether it is having intentional 1:1 conversations or helping with setup or cleanup, she is deeply committed to First-Gen student success.

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Latoya Pousa	CHHS Violence Prevention Center	7	Latoya serves as the Center's Coordinator. However, since spring she has stepped up beyond the call of duty to serve as the interim Associate Director of Education for the Center, a role normally occupied by a tenured Associate Professor. In doing this role, she orchestrated and delivered the Center's onboarding and summer training program for undergraduate students. She also worked with Center leadership to keep Center educational, research, and training efforts (e.g., CE training series w AHEC, structured process to match undergraduates with Center projects). Latoya has served two pivotal roles as the Center has grown and navigated federal and state turbulence, all while beginning her own graduate studies.

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Beth Thompson	University Center for Academic Excellence	3	Beth always provides exceptional administrative support to the UCAE. Her attention to detail, willingness to jump in to help, and persistence make our Center run incredibly smoothly. I could go on about her many strengths and talents, but I want to highlight three examples of her attention and tenacity. First, her dogged persistence in following up with a vendor on a furniture order that was inexplicably over four (!) months late resulted in that furniture at last being delivered! We had all but lost hope, but not Beth. She got it done. Second, her commitment to fairness and accuracy resulted in moving away from a vendor who had caused several issues for other campus partners in the past toward a vendor who respected our time and resources. Third, she caught a mischarge in Banner that I think almost everyone would have overlooked, triggering a correction and money saved. We are so lucky to have Beth on our team. These are just a few examples of many where her exceptional professionalism, curiosity, and expertise has allowed us to better support our students.

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Lorraine Wright	Human Resources	2	This is a follow-up to the Golden Nugget I gave Lorraine last year. At that time, she took the time to help me improve an auditing process that I complete using Excel to identify discrepancies in report data and make corrections. She shared a detailed SOP and provided guidance that enabled me to confidently complete the process independently. Lorraine's support has had a significant impact on my work. What once took weeks to complete has been streamlined into a process that now takes only 3 to 4 days. Her willingness to share her expertise, document processes, and support colleagues across HR units has greatly increased both my efficiency and effectiveness. I believe Lorraine is deserving of another Golden Nugget in recognition of her continued contributions and her commitment to helping teams beyond her own unit. Thank you, Lorraine, for your ongoing support and dedication!

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Cameron Gammon	Office of Accessibility and Accommodation	3	Cameron is the Testing Coordinator for the OAA office. She provides testing accommodations, testing assistive technology and test proctoring as well as trouble shoots concerns for hundreds of students every semester from every department for quizzes to final exams. She organizes with professors to adjust testing formats and returns testing items in a timely manner. She has increased the amount of students served every semester for four years. Cameron directs all of these processes in a calm, collected and professional manner even in very high stress situations. She is innovative and always looking for more efficient ways of work so that faculty and students understand the processes. Cameron goes way above and beyond any other Testing Coordiantor I have worked with and is an asset to this university,
Donna Sofsky	CHHS - Business Services	7	Mrs. Sofsky has been instrumental to onboarding new personnel across the College. She has exceptional knowledge of University policies and procedures and is therefore a valuable resource for new faculty and staff. Her patience is equally important as she guides individuals through the complex requirements of their varied positions. Additionally, Donna is a consummate professional and her sense of responsibility enables her to be a point of contact when others are unavailable. She is the epitome of a leader who drives our community forward through her actions and professionalism.
Sara Love	Financial Services	9	Sara consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to her duties, going above and beyond her responsibilities. Thank You.

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Matt Rubright	OneIT	4	We had a last minute change before a significant Banner Upgrade and Matt went above and beyond to reconfigure servers to make the upgrade a success. Make was very helpful and courteous providing guidance and working rapidly

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			I am pleased to nominate LeeAnn Clark for the UNC Charlotte Golden Nugget Award in recognition of her exceptional service and dedication to the School of Nursing. LeeAnn consistently goes above and beyond in supporting the faculty, staff, and leadership of the School of Nursing. She is dependable, responsive, knowledgeable, and always willing to assist when a need arises. Whether she is helping faculty navigate administrative processes, assisting with travel and Concur documentation, coordinating important School activities, or responding to an unexpected request, LeeAnn approaches her work with professionalism, patience, and a genuine desire to help others. Since I assumed the role of Interim Director of the School of Nursing, LeeAnn has been an especially valuable source of support. During this period of leadership transition, she has provided continuity and institutional knowledge while also demonstrating flexibility and openness to new processes and expectations. Her willingness to answer questions, locate information, address problems, and follow through on numerous administrative details has helped make my transition into this role smoother and has contributed to the effective operation of the School. What I appreciate most about LeeAnn is that she does not simply complete assigned tasks. She looks for ways to help, anticipates needs, and willingly takes on additional responsibilities when necessary. She is often working behind the scenes to ensure that faculty and staff have what they need to be successful. LeeAnn exemplifies the spirit of the Golden Nugget Award through her commitment to service, teamwork, and excellence. Her contributions make a meaningful difference in the School of Nursing, and she

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			I am pleased to nominate Kelsey Hardin for the UNC Charlotte Golden Nugget Award in recognition of her exceptional service, professionalism, and commitment to the School of Nursing. Since I began my role as Interim Director of the School of Nursing in July 2026, Kelsey has been an invaluable source of support. During a time of significant transition, she has consistently demonstrated a willingness to assist, answer questions, provide guidance, and help ensure that important tasks are completed. Her responsiveness, positive attitude, and commitment to the School have made a meaningful difference as I have transitioned into this leadership role. She was instrumental in assisting faculty moves to new offices and arranging furniture in offices for new faculty with a BIG Smile. Kelsey has also played an important role in welcoming and onboarding our new faculty members. Beginning a faculty position can be overwhelming, particularly when individuals are learning new systems, policies, procedures, and expectations. Kelsey has helped make this transition easier by providing information, responding to questions, connecting new faculty with appropriate resources, and helping them navigate the many details associated with joining the School of Nursing. Her patience and willingness to assist have helped our new faculty feel welcomed and supported as they become part of the UNC Charlotte community. What I particularly appreciate about Kelsey is her willingness to step in when assistance is needed. She approaches her work with professionalism, kindness, and a collaborative spirit. She recognizes that supporting faculty and leadership ultimately contributes to the success of our students and the School of Nursing as a whole. Kelsey exemplifies the spirit of the Golden

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Lillian Sanders	Digital & Professional Learning Unit	18	Lilly has worked really hard at learning all of her programs information and processes over the last month and a half. She has impressed me with her ability to be articulate with students, especially over email while onboarding herself. She has shown a lot of integrity with challenging herself to hit call targets and in general shown herself to be a really strong hire. I have a lot of trust and confidence in her ability and am excited to see where we end up in several more months. Thank you Lilly!
Nick Allion	Digital & Professional Learning Unit	18	Nick has really impressed me with his ability to communicate complex information and processes to students. He has very consistent and informative dialogue with them that helps him to excel in his work. He is also a leader of the enrollment team and I can trust him with piloting ideas and get his feedback when needed. Nick remains a valued team member! Thank you Nick!
Ronald Sweetman	SBTDC at Belk College of Business	18	Ron consistently exemplifies excellence through his leadership, collaboration, and commitment to supporting others. He is always willing to share his knowledge, mentor colleagues, answer questions, and step in to help whenever needed. As an early-career team member, I have personally benefited from his guidance and expertise, which have strengthened my ability to serve clients effectively. Ron has also demonstrated outstanding results, helping generate approximately $23.7 million in capital for Charlotte, while actively collaborating with GBCs across multiple centers. His innovative use of AI, dedication to teamwork, and genuine investment in the success of others make him highly deserving of the Golden Nugget Nomination.

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Charlotte Muhammad	Dept. of Housing and Residence Life	5	I had big ask/favor from DHRL and Charlotte was so amazing to work with to help come to a successful resolution. What could have been a super stressful situation ended up being one that not only highlighted Charlotte's abilities to show empathy and willingness for a compromise. She exemplified our University's values in more than one way and is an asset to her team and the University.
Sean Stallings	Digital Learning Production - Center for Teaching and Learning	9	Sean has been doing very deep work in exploring the pathways to translate complicated math and graphical images into simple, usable accessible formats. Sean is on the cutting edge of implementing AI to produce higher quality content for all students and help lower the faculty load of remediation through simplification of complex concepts. His work in eLearning development at the university has progressed the online student experience substantially and the commitment he has in continuing to develop more effective methods is unmatched. Sean is laying the groundwork for effective student engagement that will grow and evolve with the continued advancement of AI.
Cassandra Kusorgbor	CHHS-Dean's Office	7	Cassandra exhibits exceptional dedication and teamwork. She is flexible, hard-working, and goes the extra mile to learn new tasks, take on new responsibilities, and support her team-mates always with a positive attitude!! We are lucky to have Cassandra on our team!!

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			Golden Nugget Award Nomination: Laura Pagani Laura Pagani is a true Gold Standard Niner. In the Center for Graduate Life and Learning (CGLL), she is the person who keeps a dozen moving pieces running at once, and she does it with care for the graduate students we serve. The past few weeks alone show how much she carries. Leading the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Laura is managing 3MT from start to finish, and the results are already showing. As of September 24, 20 doctoral students have registered. She compared venue options in detail. The Bioinformatics space had a 4:30 exit time and no clear reception area. Rowe was only available before 4:15 and could not accommodate reception needs. After weighing those limits, she moved the event to Fretwell and arranged for classroom support to confirm and test the AV system. She is coordinating with Chartwells to use the "Thoughtful Cup" for the reception, managing the food and beverage order, and sequencing the reception F&B request so nothing is submitted too early. She is also confirming sponsorship and working with Graduate School Staff and Campus Partners to invite past internal preliminary judges and external final judges. Her promotion plan reaches students through many channels: Grad Weekly, the Global Newsletter, personal invitations to past participants (sent 9/22), outreach to Graduate Program Directors (9/25), and upcoming social media and electronic board postings. Making Commencement and Hooding personal for doctoral graduates. Laura keeps the lists of doctoral students up to date and meets the Commencement deadline. She works with the Graduate School to track each candidate. She also communicates directly with graduates about attending the hooding ceremony, hometown announcements, and coordinating faculty members. She thinks

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Ed Conway	OneIT (CHHS)	4	Ed Conway expertly serves the CHHS faculty/staff community with good cheer, expertise, and speed. As an example, I recently needed to use a Dell laptop to use software that would not run on my MacBook. Ed and his team (student-Daisy) quickly (same day!) DELIVERED a loaner laptop to me and then picked it up when I was finished. We appreciate this type of support to help us do our jobs well. Thanks, Ed, for all you do to support the School of Social Work team.
April Baynes	Development (and Alumni Affairs)	11	We appreciate April Baynes because of all of the excellent support she provided to the School of Social Work in CHHS when working as our Alumni Office connection. Now she has a new position wth Advancement but she is still willing to provide some transitional support to our CHHS to make sure our alumni events happen with excellence. We appreciate you, April, for all you have done for us! Advancement office is lucky to have such a hard-working and stand-out gem joining the team there.
Vicky Harris	School of Social Work (CHHS)	7	The School of Social Work appreciates Vicky Harris for all of her support getting the new school year off to a great start. She has been willing ot orient new faculty to the School and help make sure everyone knows how to use the Concur travel software. Additionally, she helped craft the fall schedule to make sure all students had classrooms and scheduled to complete the courses they need. We appreciate her helpfulness, good cheer, and attention to policies and details.

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Ava Torrise	School of Social Work	7	The School of Social Work appreciates Ava Torrise for her creativity and energy that she invests in our social work communication materials. She prepares informative and eye-catching marketing materials (social work newsletter, social work program flyers) with great speed and attention to detail. She is one of the team members responsible for the high demand of our BSW and MSW Programs, as she deeply understands the details of our social work program offering and markets them well. Thanks, Ava, for making all of us in SSW look good!
Cali Wickert	School of Social Work (CHHS)	7	The School of Social Work appreciates Cali Wickert for her continuing dedication to her complicated work of managing practicum placements for our BSW and MSW Students. She has a lot of responsibility in her job and has designed significant improvements to our practicum management systems. We appreciate the expertise!
Cheryl Whitley	School of Social Work	7	The School of Social Work appreciates Cheryl for her willingness to step in when other team members are out for various reasons. She has a team mentality and is always cheerful to assist with various duties as needed. We especially appreciate efforts to help the students and faculty with extra needs during the start of the new academic year.

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Jonathan Harrison	Office of Legal Affairs	1	Jonathan has been an incredible partner to the academic advising community by leading not one, but two deeply impactful Professional Development sessions on FERPA. Following an exceptionally well-received spring workshop, Jonathan stepped up without hesitation when advisors asked for deeper insights into navigating complex family dynamics and privacy nuances. He demonstrated extraordinary leadership this fall by bringing together three additional campus partners to deliver a comprehensive, unified follow-up session. Jonathan managed the planning, coordination, and presentation with absolute grace and expertise. Thank you, Jonathan, for dedicating countless hours to empowering our advisors—because of your guidance, our advising community is far more confident and prepared to navigate FERPA in their daily work!

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Ysatiz Pinero-Adorno	Leadership and Community Engagement (Student Affairs)		It is never easy to navigate being short-staffed, but it is exceptionally challenging early in the fall semester as the academic year kicks off. Between welcoming and supporting new students, advising and coaching student leaders, and executing complex programming that certainly does not run itself, the workload is immense. On top of all that, there is a seemingly endless queue of administrative tasks demanding immediate attention, all culminating in countless long hours and high-pressure days. Despite these relentless demands, Ysatiz continues to step up without hesitation. She approaches every challenge with unmatched determination, an unwavering work ethic, and a genuine smile that uplifts those around her (even those across campus). Ysatiz's resilience and positive attitude not only keep operations running smoothly, but they also set the standard for dedicated student support. She truly embodies the spirit of excellence, and this Golden Nugget is a small token of recognition for her extraordinary dedication.

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Amber Creft	Student Legal Services		Amber is managing an exceptionally high caseload of complex landlord/tenant issues this fall, yet she consistently makes it a priority to keep Off-Campus Student Services informed. While the partnership with Student Legal Services has been invaluable over the years, it has been especially critical this semester. Amber's proactive communication directly enhances our ability to support individual students navigating housing challenges, while also providing crucial insights into broader trends across the off-campus housing market. We are deeply grateful for the strong collaborative relationship we share with Student Legal Services and are constantly inspired by the ways Amber and her team empower our students. Her dedication, expertise, and commitment to student advocacy make a lasting difference every single day.

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Ashley McAlarney	Student Legal Services		We've been so fortunate to have such a critical campus partner in Ashley for several years. For a long while, she was the only attorney in SLS and as they begin a second year with two attorneys, it's so great to see their office's reach broaden even more. While the partnership with Student Legal Services has been invaluable over the years, it has been especially critical this semester. That partnership enhances our ability to support individual students navigating housing challenges, while also providing crucial insights into broader trends across the off-campus housing market. We are deeply grateful for the strong collaborative relationship we share with Student Legal Services and are constantly inspired by the ways Ashley and her team connect with and empower our students. Their dedication, expertise, and commitment to student advocacy make a lasting difference every day.

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Pa Yang	Student Legal Services		For years, we've been so fortunate to work with Pa Yang. She puts her whole heart into the work she does for students, the SLS Board of Directors, and campus partners alike. Her fingerprints are in the details of the daily work they do, the personal touches they provide, and the welcoming atmosphere of their office. While we are deeply grateful for the strong, ongoing partnership we share with Student Legal Services and their steadfast commitment to student advocacy, Pa's quiet leadership, warmth, and behind-the-scenes dedication are truly the bedrock of that success. She creates a lasting difference every day, and we are so proud to recognize her with this Golden Nugget.