

# April 2023 Star Awards



## Jerry Blake, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

Blake is an individual whose work continuously stands out as exceptional. He is constantly looking for new ways to improve the student and staff experience. Not only does Blake take part in all EOP/Student Affairs events, but he is always hands-on with each one. Blake continually demonstrates his passion to engage and motivate students. He is always learning the best techniques and methods for advising, retention, recruitment, student engagement, and technology. Whether it is engaging one-on-one with students, hauling decorations and equipment back and forth, being the "sound guy", or making the staff laugh, you always know that when Blake is there, stuff will get done. He is our "go-to" guy, and he deserves this recognition.

## April Nominees

### Berenice Espitia, Hornet Launch

Before moving on to a new role as an enrollment manager with Hornet Launch, Bere worked in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) for 10 years where she worked collaboratively with the Full Circle Project (FCP), the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Hornet Launch, faculty, and staff to coordinate summer transition programs for hundreds of first-generation & low-income students. Bere shows a deep understanding of inclusivity as she was a huge advocate for APIDA students and made sure that APIDA students were represented in EOP programs as Sac State is funded as an AANAPISI. Her career in higher education and dedication to Sac State exemplifies her service to our especially vulnerable first-generation and underrepresented minority (URM) students.

### **Esmeralda Salud, Office of the University Registrar**

Esmeralda (Esme) is an amazing member of the Registrar team. Esme is Made at Sac State and is continuing her education here in the School Counseling Master's program. On countless occasions, she has assisted her team and supported our student assistants. Most recently, she utilized her skills as a bilingual employee to assist community members over the phone and even offered to be a point of contact in the future. Her positive attitude and desire to serve our students is admirable, and I am so glad she is a part of OUR team. I cannot wait to see what Esme does in the future to serve CSUS and our community.

### **Susan Acosta, Student Health & Counseling Services**

Susan works at the front desk on the second floor of Student Health and Wellness in the primary care department. She treats our students/patients with respect and kindness. She goes out of her way to help students and shows empathy toward their needs. I feel confident that a patient is treated and helped with a happy helpful face, when I know Susan is taking care of patients at the front desk. She goes out of her way to make sure their needs are met and has a positive attitude.