

February 2023 Star Awards



Andrew Yang, APIDA Center

Without reservation, Andrew Yang the APIDA Center Coordinator and Counselor should be considered for the Shining STAR of the Month. Talented and dynamic, Andrew encompasses all the characteristics of professionalism in his ability to work with external stakeholders both on and off campus. For instance, Andrew successfully led the grand opening and celebration of the APIDA Center that welcomed over 300 guests from 13 community organizations to the campus and was interviewed by three news stations. Furthermore, he is the co-chair to the 5th annual APIDA College Day and worked closely to host 17 school sites and 700 middle/high school students on campus.

Caring and understanding, Andrew is highly sought by his peers and many students to partner and participate on events and workshops further demonstrates his track record of teamwork and collaboration. His keen awareness and knowledge to inspire and galvanize students are commendable. For instance, he worked with students on the newly established APIDA Student Club and is their current advisor. While continuing to meet students daily, Andrew offers his time to work with faculty members and other equity centers to provide programming that includes holistic advising, outreach support and retention services so other first-generation students can actualize their dreams like he did when he was an EOP student.

February Nominees

Theresa Barajas, Financial Aid & Scholarships

Theresa is the Assistant Director of State Programs for the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office and embodies every aspect of our divisional values. She is especially deserving of the STAR of the Month award for her recent success in leading the Middle-Class Scholarship (MCS) program. MCS experienced a major overhaul this year and has now become a large-scale, highly complex program. While facing the challenge of implementing a brand-new program mid-year, Theresa kept our team organized and focused on the task of awarding over 14,000 students in a short amount of time. She has used collaboration and innovation to troubleshoot issues and ensure that students were paid in a timely manner. As a result, we disbursed over \$20 million dollars to our students! Theresa is a star!

Stacey Fundus, Office of the University Registrar

I have had the great fortune of working with Stacey since I began my career at Sac State nine years ago. She was instrumental in my training and success when I first started, and she continues to act as that resource for countless others. Stacey has extensive knowledge of university policies and procedures which she uses to help students receive their degrees in a timely manner and to advise them on their path to graduation. She collaborates well with all staff in our office, provides support and guidance to all who need it, and does all of this with an unmatched level of integrity. She is an asset to the Registrar's Office and the university as a whole.