

July Winner!



Noelle McCurley, Student Affairs

Noelle McCurley is an exceptional person who exemplifies all of the values of a STAR! To understand her impact, one must understand her underlying motivation and her passion for helping, supporting and caring about students. Despite that fact that she works with tens of thousands of students in her more than 25 years of service at Sacramento State, she ensures that every individual student she works with feels important, valued and heard. As she once described it, no one wants to feel like one of many. They want to feel like they count. And Noelle ensures that each and every student count to her and the university. She has embodied that sense of passion and purpose in her work with Student Affairs and through her critical partnership role in HornetAttain!, a new Sacramento State initiative aimed at identifying and re-engaging diverse stopped-out students to support them as they complete their degrees. Noelle has been instrumental in developing the inclusive processes and procedures that are core to the infrastructure of HornetAttain!, and she serves as the HornetAttain! Achievement Advisor, which involves transcript audits and individualized coaching and support helping interested learners navigate their return to Sacramento State. Noelle's passion and dedication can be felt in every conversation, email and phone calls. And fortunately for HornetAttain! And for all Sacramento State learners, her passion and integrity are both unique and contagious. She cares so much about the work and the learners that she engenders a similar passion in those colleagues who get the privilege of working with her.

As a direct result of her hard work, her drive, and her unshakeable commitment to learners, HornetAttain! has reached out to more than 200 stopped out learners. Noelle has personally engaged with more than 50 of those learners. Three learners re-enrolled in classes and will complete their degrees this summer, with ten more anticipated enrollments. Finally, to date, Noelle has helped an additional 14 Hornets get the degrees they earned posted! Noelle is a collaborative partner who approaches barriers with a curious eye toward innovative solutions around what will best serve students. She is a Shining STAR and the entire Sacramento State family, students, faculty and staff is lucky to have her on their side.

July Nominees

Lisa Chandler, Office of the University Registrar

Lisa Chandler has demonstrated unconditional support to our office, our students, and the university all throughout our remote working conditions and beyond. Lisa continued to deliver exceptional customer service to our students and was one of the few individuals who continued to come into the office every day even when everyone else was working remotely. She trained new student assistance while also taking on more work and responsibilities to make sure the Registrar's Office continued to offer the same level of support to our students in all of our capacities. As we transitioned back into our office, Lisa has played a major role to assist our transition as well as that of our services to our students. Despite some of the hardships that our staff and students have endured, Lisa has kept the most positive attitude that spreads throughout our entire team. Lisa is the true definition of a team player and member of our University. She demonstrates every value that our university stands for including Collaboration, Service, Innovation, Inclusivity, Integrity, and Wellness. She is always the Shinning Star of our Registrar's Team.

Sandhya Rao, Financial Aid/Enrollment

Sandhya is a shining star in the Financial Aid Office. As an integral part of the Systems Team, she takes the lead on our most challenging and complex projects. She embodies the collaboration, service, and innovation values with her thoughtful solutions to our many, many regulation changes this year. For instance, within the month of July 2021, we learned of several federal and state updates that required immediate attention. Sandhya and the Systems Team worked tirelessly to update To Do lists and financial aid awards on thousands of students, all while keeping the Operations Team involved every step of the way. Sandhya is an exceptional asset to this office, and we are so glad to have her on our team!

Yee Vang, Office of the University Registrar

Yee is always upbeat and checks in on people to see how they are doing or just to say "hi." Since joining the OUR team he has been a quick-study and always eager to help to resolve issues with degree audit and thinks creatively about ways to achieve desired results. I can count on him to help me work through a systems issues and provide options and resolve the issue when possible. I can trust him to communicate to me options and concerns. He has made substantial improvements to my program audits that I have been requesting for over a year and was told it was not possible. He figured it out, made it work, and as a result of the changes, increased accessibility of information to students and advisors. Yee is a pleasure to have on the OUR team and in Student Affairs!

Cierra Tiechiera, ASI Children's Center

Cierra is a Head Teacher at the ASI Children's Center. Cierra demonstrates excellent service by proving high quality childcare to the Sac State community. She has developed close relationships with her families and you can tell that her children adore her. Cierra collaborates with her peers to develop creative and developmentally appropriate curriculum for the children. She also took the initiative to develop trainings for the student staff. She comes to work every day with a smile on her face.

Bianca Morales, College of HHS

Bianca has the ability to provide her dedicated services to upcoming students at Sacramento State University, with excellent orientations, zoom calls, and questions via e-mails. Even though in the times of Covid-19, Bianca has put her personal wellness to look out for those who are still finishing up their path of education, times are definitely tough but the dedication of Bianca shows why she deserves the star award this time around