

June 2023 Star Awards



Rena Horse, 'Esak'tima Center

The word “service” is a noun, and it means the action of helping or doing work for someone. There is no one more deserving of this award than Rena Horse, 'Esak'tima Center Coordinator and Native Student Success Counselor. There are several reasons why her nomination should be considered with the highest enthusiasm. First, Rena exemplifies and demonstrates what it means to be a servant leader with her colleagues and especially with students. She incorporates her lived experience, collective voice, and as an enrolled Member of the Pit River Tribe/Astarawi Band in her counseling, advising, and interaction with the campus community. This gentle approach humanizes the conversation and is an example of being culturally responsive to the people around her. Second, Rena's commitment to the Native students and their history is commendable. She has showcased this with her commitment in the establishment of the 'Esak'tima Center. Lastly, it goes unnoticed that Rena brings innovative, balanced, and thought-provoking ideas and strategies to better serve equity students. Her forward-thinking but respect to traditions is what makes her most deserving for this award. I hold no reservation and recommend Rena at the highest consideration so we can continually advance, advocate, and amplify ordinary staff doing extraordinary work.

June Nominees

Tommy Ngo

Tommy has met the criteria for going above and beyond. Tommy is very knowledgeable and helps and provides information to staff and prospective students. His presence and attitude is that of someone who is always willing to help. Especially when staff have questions, he can answer and provide services. Tommy provides prospective students from all over the Bay Area with what Sac State has to offer.