

March Star Awards



Yolanda Blackshire, University Housing Services

Yolanda Blackshire is the mastermind behind the On-Campus Housing Application. Leading up to the month of March and during the first couple weeks, Yolonda worked really hard to change up the application process to be more student-focused, to be easier for applying, to be easier for staff to process, and to have the application open on time. Yolonda was tasked with changing up the application for AY 21-22 and making it even better. She met this goal and exceeded expectations. The AY 22-23 on-campus housing application and processes are AMAZING thanks to Yolonda!

Innovation: When I say mastermind, I mean it. Yolonda came up with ideas (like a better way for students to indicate their location selections) and she also found a way to implement other folks' ideas. She knows the Housing Portal inside and out and continues to use the housing system to her advantage, while being creative and innovative.

Collaboration: Yolonda has collaborated with myself, leadership in the department, and Hornet Commons to share ideas and information pertaining to the application process. She worked with everyone to make the application flow in a way that worked for all staff - UHS and Hornet Commons, while also benefiting students.

Service: Yolonda is student-focused in her approach to the application process. She wanted to make an easier application flow and streamline some of the processes to meet the students' needs and make the application process better for our students. Overall, she deserves this. She's a STAR!

March Nominees

Kyle McFarland, Office of the University Registrar

Kyle is the sole-ITC team member for the Office of the University Registrar so every course, program, GE change falls to him to update in the degree audit and course catalog. He is solution-oriented and eager to find a fix to make the systems work correctly and accurately to ensure students, faculty, and staff have access to the correct information. He provides exceptional service and is quick to help when a situation arises. He works hard to understand the problem from multiple sides and thinks creatively to resolve the problem. He is KEY (and a STAR) in supporting our Sac State community through technology.

Nehemiah Rodriguez, Project Rebound

On March 21st, an active shooter drill was being conducted on campus. Nehemiah happened to be in his car in the area where the drill was currently taking place. Nehemiah did not realize that law enforcement, staff, and students were participating in a drill and thought that lives were in danger. Nehemiah courageously hailed participants to his car in an attempt to drive them to safety. Nehemiah disregarded his own safety to ensure the safety of others and expressed a willingness to go back into the danger zone to rescue others. Nehemiah acted as a true hero and those of us who were part of the active shooter drill are thankful for his courageousness.