

May Star Awards

May Winner!



Cindy Brandon, New Student Orientation

Who is the person behind the curtain that quietly works to make coming to New Student Orientation a magical moment for all of our new Hornets? Why that person would be Cindy Brandon! She is AMAZING! It's Orientation season and Cindy juggles her numerous projects like an octopus who has eight arms. She schedules student appointments, answers all types of questions, processes fee waivers, orders supplies for the staff, orders lunches for the students, families and staff, pays the bills and turns out the lights at the end of the day! With the absence of a First Year Coordinator, Cindy has been so helpful with assisting the oversight of the student staff projects, working collaboratively with campus partners regarding stuffing/ mailing welcome packets, and off-campus partners like our swag vendors. In particular, Cindy has been the go-to regarding communication with the new vendor in charge of our student handbook/planner. Most importantly, when Cindy runs across a student that is struggling she will stop everything and go out of her way to connect that student with the right person on campus to help. Most days you find Cindy tucked away in the corner office on the first floor of Lassen Hall - doing what she does best - always offering a smile to the new members of our Hornet Family. There are numerous components to planning/operationalizing/executing a high standard orientation program and Cindy has been a fabulous partner as we strive to maintain a high-quality program in a virtual world. I don't know what I would have done without her!

May Nominees

Erica Perez, Strategic Student Support Programs

Erica is the Coordinator of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), where she oversees direct services and programming for students from migrant and seasonal farm working backgrounds. Most of these students are also the first in their families to attend college, something that Erica can relate to first-hand. Additionally, she leads the Communications and Marketing team for Strategic Student Support Programs (SSSP). While these dual roles keep her quite busy, Erica performs all tasks and responsibilities with passion and dedication. Erica's commitment to student success is clear in her work with CAMP. She is accessible and welcoming, and she provides students appropriate support and guidance, empowering them to reach their full potential. Likewise, Erica is collaborative and student centered; for example by partnering with the Career Center she has helped ensure that CAMP students can be exposed to career development workshops and employer activities, while providing community partners opportunities to share career stories and trajectories with students. Erica's innovative spirit also helped our unit find ways to streamline critical processes for student success. For example, she created templates for presentations and social media collateral for all of our programs to use. She always has creative ideas and helps to transform these ideas into design. All and all, Erica is a person of integrity who demonstrates an unwavering commitment to being of service to our centers/programs, the Division of Student Affairs, and the University. She does her work with a high level of purpose, care, and passion. This commitment is visually cemented in the top-notch marketing and communications projects she leads for SSSP, and in her unwavering commitment to helping CAMP students succeed. Erica is an embodiment of being Hecha en Sac State [Made at Sac State] and of the university's commitment to service, excellence, and inclusion, making her the perfect STAR Award recipient.