

Outstanding Long-Term Professional 2022



Josh Mandel-Sonner, Student Organizations & Leadership

Nomination #1: Josh is one of the most genuinely kind individuals I've not only had the pleasure of working with but known. His passion, knowledge and advocacy for the students within the Sport Clubs program is unmatched and has allowed him to lead his team through many challenges as the sport club community has transitioned back to on campus student life in the wake of COVID. Josh is also the spear header of many of the annual anchor events our office is known for. From Hornet Marketplace to Booth Lottery, he takes ownership of each event from top to bottom on top of the daily responsibilities of managing our most complex and high functioning club category area. To put it simply, Josh cares deeply. About his work, about the members of our SO&L team, and about ensuring that we are all seen not only as professionals but people. Josh is always quick to remember birthdays even when they fall on weekends or break periods, to surprise members of our team with their favorite treat when they are down, and to provide a much-needed laugh even if it is at his own expense. Even right now as he is actively recovering from a concussion, he continues to regularly be one of the first team members in and last out. He is truly deserving of recognition as both the heart of our office, a true team player, and an embodiment of the values of our University.

Nomination #2: Josh Mandel-Sonner's leadership within our department, his partnerships, and his work to continue to develop the Sport Clubs Program to a premier program in our state and beyond is what makes him incredibly deserving of this recognition. Josh works tirelessly to manage a very complex and compliance heavy area, ensuring not only our student athletes are healthy and safe, but thoroughly enjoy their experience in our rec and sport clubs and have a pride in the community they are a part of. Josh does it all (budget oversight, travel and competitions, risk management, comprehensive trainings, supervision, committees) while fostering and maintaining relationships at a high level, both on (Athletic

Training, Risk Management, HR, The WELL, CARES, etc) and off campus (national governing bodies, other campuses, coaches, etc). I could not be more proud of this program because of the work that he and Jaclyn do daily and their goals for elevating the program each and every year. Outside of his own area, Josh steps up to provide leadership within our department whenever needed. He cares deeply about the wellbeing on a personal level of our students, is ALWAYS positive and encouraging, and is a critical support to me as Director in enacting our vision for the kind of department we want to be. There is no doubt that our students, this department, and our University are better in ways we cannot even fathom because of Josh and the work he has done over the past 10 years.

Nomination #3: Josh Mandel-Sonner has been supportive, positive and welcoming as I've transitioned into the SOAL office. He has always been available to answer a question, offer advice or guidance. He is always patient and kind as he supports my on-boarding, working with student assistants, and his positivity is a delight. Josh's ability to keep multiple balls in the air while also offering care and concern to all students and staff he interacts with is an example we all should strive for. Josh has a great balance of fun and focus, and always has time and capacity to support development. Josh is the model of humility and is a benefit to SOAL and the whole of the Student Affairs Division.

Nomination #4: I have had the privilege of getting to work with Josh Mandel-Sonner for 8 years now, as a student-athlete/leader, student assistant, and now as a professional staff member and teammate. I have yet to meet someone on campus who takes so much pride and responsibility for not only his work and impact on campus but also for all of the students he works with and supports. He is also Made at Sac State and is very proud of it. Josh comes to work every day focused on serving our students to the best of his ability and creating experiences for them that will benefit their college experience and their futures. He works tirelessly to support students and cares deeply about their mental/emotional health and academic success. Josh is an extremely thoughtful and supportive coworker/teammate. He cares about everyone in our office and their wellbeing, he steps up to support departmental needs, and finds ways to encourage positive engagement between our department staff (both student and professional) to help keep our spirits up. Josh is excellent at his job (which is not easy) and has a solid work ethic and passion for Sac State and its students. He has a strong moral compass and belief in doing things the right way. I have learned a lot from him as a young professional and am grateful to have him as a role model. Josh inspires me to be a better human every day.

Outstanding Long-Term Professional Award Nominees

- Laurie Dahlberg, Student Athlete Resource Center
- Rusty Slabinski, Student Affairs Business Resources
- Jessica Swart, The WELL