I. Dean’s award

The attendees discussed the four faculty nominations for the undergrad Dean’s award for Spring, 2014, ranking 3 candidates for the Dean’s consideration: (1) Almazan (2) Jones-Hankerson (3) Yamamoto (see attached). Because there was not a quorum, Sheri will conduct an email vote with the whole committee and send the results on to the Dean’s office.

The group discussed ensuring that all UG programs (including Deaf studies) be considered for this award, so would like discuss distributing a general request for nominations through undergraduate studies rather than just child development. There was some discussion about the inclusion of CCE cohort program as well, although it might be difficult to conduct since full time faculty have limited contact with the students in this program.

II. Recruitment Plan

The group discussed the development of a recruitment plan and need for data collection. There were several areas where data about existing practice or achievement would be helpful in developing the plan, including:

- Existing recruitment efforts by individual COE programs and college
- Updated program information
- Admission and retention data, by program
- Information about what is possible in terms of changes to the college web site
- Practices/policies/programs that support students & effective student advising
- Student graduation rates and activities & success in the community post-graduation

The idea is that we would think strategically about the areas related to recruitment (image, recruitment support, success in community), setting college-wide goals, proposing resources, and assessing outcomes related to those goals. As a first step, the group proposed gathering program information and inviting Steve or other knowledgeable person to discuss the college web site relative to recruitment and advising. In addition, there was some discussion about reaching out to MA grads via email or social media to assess their activities after graduation and satisfaction with program.
III. Other business

The group discussed scholarships and the role of the committee in deciding them. It was unclear whether we would simply house an existing scholarship committee or make the decisions ourselves as a committee of the whole. The scholarship application information is not yet available.

We also wondered whether the graduate branch was pursuing development of a graduation with distinction policy (recently approved by the faculty senate) so that faculty could nominate top students for this recognition. If not, the group saw this as an activity it might engage in as a way to recognize graduate student excellence.

NEXT (final) meeting for Spring Semester: Thursday, May 15, 1:30 -2:45 pm
I kind of was that kid with all this passion and energy and no place to direct it. Yes, we all know that ‘one.’ I had basketball, friends, but after high school when all my activities came to a halt, I was left with a desire to do something more. I was not quite sure what that more was, but I was determined to find out. Throughout my school years I would hear peers rave about what they wanted to ultimately pursue and it would inevitably spur questions and thoughts on what I wanted to do; what impact was I going to make on this world? Some may call it an accident however I call it a divine appointment. My friend at the time had lead me to work at a place called 4th “R” - an after-school program for school aged children. I knew I loved kids, however little did I know this was the place I would find my “more” I was so desperately seeking.

Parents would frequently approach me and share their gratitude for taking the time to teach their child how to tie their shoe, read, and even for starting a Spanish club for children who had never even heard the language before. I would see children smile and run towards me when I came into work. This is how I knew working with children was more than just a paycheck at the end of the week, but it was my passion. With the birth of my eldest son came that proverbial light bulb moment. My child, a helpless, beautiful, gift from God, needed me to show him the way. Now my passion, drive, motivation, and love for children had begun to reach its true potential. I began to crave a greater knowledge for anything and everything relating to teaching and helping children grow. I began enrolling in Early Childhood Education classes in efforts to attain my degree in Child Development. I began to seek out new ways to extend my knowledge and experience. I worked as an educational coach for English language learners at several schools in South Sacramento. This program sought to help bridge the gap between low socio-economic status and educational success. I worked in a private in home day care center for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. I also had the profound experience volunteering at Shriners Hospital for children making orthotic braces. Eight years later and here I am, with a goal in sight. I am continuing my work with children at the same place that ignited my passion in the first
place but now as a supervisor. In addition I am a private family tutor and mentor for three teenage boys who were in and out of foster and group homes.

My life’s journey has taken me down a path filled with rich educational experiences in child development, both academically and personally. With the recent birth of my youngest son six months ago, my heart is solidified in my journey of how I can be a positive force in the lives of children. I hope this letter paints a picture of the journey of self-discovery that I have experienced. My wonderful family have all been witnesses to my transformation from a boy who had no real direction, to a 25 year old man with a family of his own who wants to make a difference in the lives of others. I am truly humbled to even be recognized as someone that stands out in a group of future leaders at California State University Sacramento.

Sincerely, thank you very much for your consideration.

Ryan Almazan
916-769-7835
Hello, my name is Yolanda Jones-Hankerson and I am honored to be nominated for the College of Education Dean’s Award. I started out on this journey almost twenty years ago. Growing up I was told to graduate from high school, no one ever talked to me about college. I had been in special education my whole life and reading was very challenging for me, but in high school I made the decision to go to college, but I had no direction. After beginning in college for about a year I dropped out got a good job and started a family with the love of my life. I worked at that job for seven years and was laid off. I started another job and worked there for five years and was laid off once again. I was a Sunday school teacher at my church at that time and really enjoyed working with the children. Also being a mom of four I knew it was something I loved to do. I want to help provide for my four children and have a career for myself and make a difference in children’s live. After being laid off twice I knew that jobs come and go and were not always fulfilling, but that find a meaningful career was what I really wanted. I knew in order to make my dreams come true and set a good example for my children I had to make a change.

The one thing I thought I could not do because I was getting old was to go back to school, but with my hope and faith I enrolled in Cosumnes River College and returned to school. I worked really hard on my studies and graduated with highest honors. After receiving my Associate Arts Degree in Early Childhood education, I applied for California State University, Sacramento. I was accepted and continued to work hard at my studies, always trying to gain more knowledge and excellence in every class. I am so thankful that I have been nominated to receive the College of Education Dean’s Award and opportunity speak at the Commencement Ceremony, which would be a great honor and accomplishment that I never thought I could achieve. I thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and Gratefully,
Yolanda Cleopatra Jones-Hankerson
Kia Yamamoto GPA: 3.64

In 2009 I moved 2,460 miles away from my home in Honolulu, Hawaii to Sacramento, California to begin my college career at Sacramento State. I felt a jumble of emotions, confused, scared, excited, and anxious; who knew I could muster up the courage to move this far away from home? I certainly did not. I had never been to Sac State before, but as soon as I stepped on to the beautiful campus I was certain that I would have an amazing time.

Contrast to what I was expecting, my freshman year was dull and boring. I made few friends and was reluctant to try anything new. Extremely homesick, I even considered giving up on Sacramento and moving back home. Thankfully, at the end of the year I was given an amazing opportunity to work as an Information Desk Attendant for the University Union. Being able to assist people within the Sac State community gave me a new sense of purpose and reignited my desire to help people. Because of my determination, responsible nature, and excellent customer service skills, I have now obtained a new position in the University Union as a Building Supervisor, as well as the Student Lead for the Information Desk, Terminal Lounge, and Gallery, and a member of both the Union Advisory Group and Student Management Team. Taking on all of these positions as a graduating senior may seem daunting to most, but in my eyes it was just more opportunities to learn and contribute to the improvement of services for the students.

Working for the Union made me realize that I tend to put the needs of others before my own, which can also be seen in my membership in Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity on campus. I have held different officer positions such as recording secretary, sergeant-at-arms, and just last spring, I was the fraternity president. Because we are a service fraternity, we perform various acts of service to the campus, to the community, and also to the nation at large. A service project that I put together was creating paper cranes to send to children who are sick, as inspiration for them to get better. I based this project on the Japanese story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. In the legend, it is said that if one makes a thousand paper cranes, they would be granted a wish. By distributing these cranes to pediatric patients in hospitals, we intend to give patients and their families the hope that they need to get through this difficult time in their lives.

As with most college students, I had no idea what I wanted major in at first. I bounced around from psychology, criminal justice, computer science, anthropology, and finally landed on child development. I had previous experience in afterschool child care for elementary and middle school children, but it had never dawned on me to make a career out of working with children until I took CHDV 35 with Melina Bersamin. She piqued my interest in working with young children, which has now turned into a passion. I have previously volunteered at the ASI Children’s Center on campus in the infant classroom. I immediately fell in love. The children there are incredible and are capable of great things. I take one look at these children see the future members of society. They will become the next generation of business owners, teachers, senators, engineers, and so much more. Knowing this, I intend to continue my education at Sacramento State and obtain a Masters of Arts in Child Development with a concentration in Applied Settings. Denise Wessels, the director of the ASI Children’s Center has also been an inspiration, and has encouraged me to pursue my dream in becoming an infant toddler teacher. I want to work with infants and toddlers as well as their families in a program that serves to support their development in a safe and enriching culturally diverse environment.
Through the experiences I have made at Sac State, I constructed myself the most successful college experience that anyone could ask for. There were ups and downs, as can be expected, but I was able to push through and overcome all obstacles that were thrown at me. I have made relationships with other students, faculty, and staff members that I hope will last my lifetime. Sac State has made a huge impact on my life and how I will choose to live it. It has given me the opportunity to mature and grow from an innocent, indecisive teenager into a confident and determined young woman. The past five years have been the best time of my life, and when I look back on these years, I will cherish the memories I’ve made with the friends I now call my family. I feel very lucky and appreciative that I was able to have this great opportunity, and thankful for the faculty or staff member of the Child Development department that nominated me for this award.