

# February 2024 Star Awards

## February 2024 Winner!



## Grace Hall, Financial Aid & Scholarships

In the words of Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." Grace is at that level of excellence. Grace's work has always exceeded our expectations and has meaningfully contributed to the Financial Aid & Scholarships' office success. We are extremely lucky to have an employee like Grace as she has raised the bar with the quality of her work and service. Grace's ability to easily manage herself and prioritize her work is greatly appreciated. Grace inspires me every day, as an exemplary employee, with a great attitude and values.

I cannot express enough gratitude for her continuous dedication and efforts to excel at work. She has taken our work philosophy to a new level and will continue to inspire others and soar higher. A perfect employee isn't someone who comes early and leaves late. It's someone who brings everything they have to the table and proactively uses their skills to do their best. Grace is that employee, and I'm grateful to have you on my

team. Her dedication to always putting forth excellent work has contributed tremendously to the University success. Thank you for inspiring us to do our best every day!

## February Nominees

Stacey Fundus, Office of the University Registrar

Stacey Fundus is a shining star on the Registrars Degree Advising Team. Stacey is well known for her positive and fun spirit, in addition to her extensive knowledge of Sac State and Title V Policy. As a result, Stacey is one of the go-to people sought out for historical and accurate information on Sac State policies. Stacey is a professional team player and collaborator for our team, and she displays integrity and devotion to duty. For these reasons and more, I would like to nominate Stacey Fundus for this upcoming STAR of the Month Award.

Racquel Reber, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

I am elated to nominate Racquel for this recognition. Humbled and hardworking, I have observed Racquel's dedication to students, especially those of first-generation and mixed status background. Most recently, I have witnessed her patience and interest in getting to know her students with the time she gives them and conversation she ignites. I would be remiss if I did not mention that her positive attitude is contagious amongst her peers and colleagues. Additionally, I commend the aura she exudes as a team player and steadfast commitment to give voice to and amplify the student experience. A mom by nature, counselor by training, and leader by heart, Racquel embodies all that Sac State has to offer - excellence, integrity, and compassion.

Jasmine Gomez, Academic Advising Center

We are nominating Jasmine Gomez for the exceptional work she has and is doing as a new professional with the Academic Advising team (AAC). Jasmine started with the AAC as a student while wrapping up her undergraduate degree at CSUS. She has been helping students fulfill their general education and graduation requirements as well as educating them about the CSUS policies. After graduating Jasmine stepped in as a temp-hire on the team and continued supporting students. Jasmine was able to obtain a full-time position with the AAC where she has gone above and beyond her position within her first year.

Jasmine stepped up to assist the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS) when they lost a staff member. She learned the new requirements for that population of students and jumped right in to help the SSIS center weekly by being in the Zoom drop-in hours and taking on appointments. Jasmine is constantly looking to educate herself and improve her skills by connecting with the Student Success Center to learn more about the SAP appeal, financial aid, and other resources to help her students in her advising sessions. She is always asking questions and trying to gain

more insight into other areas outside of her position to come up with a holistic approach to her advising students. Jasmine exercises patience with her students and really takes the time to listen to their needs. There have been numerous times students wanted to meet with Jasmine or vocalized how helpful she has been and their relief towards academics after meeting with her. She loves the students so much, and it shows through her efforts to assist students and refer to the best resources.