

# January 2024 Star Awards

## January 2024 Winner!



### Kim Gomez, Dreamer Resource Center

Kim Gomez is an exemplary candidate for the STAR of the Month Award, embodying divisional values of Integrity, Wellness, Innovation, Inclusivity, Collaboration, and Service. Her devoted service to undocumented and mixed-status students sets her apart. As the coordinator of the Dreamer Resource Center, Kim's unwavering integrity, promotion of wellness, and fostering of an inclusive environment demonstrate her commitment to excellence. Her innovative problem-solving benefits both the center and the campus community. A standout strength lies in Kim's ability to connect with individuals on a personal level. Her compassion creates a supportive environment, inspiring confidence

and trust among students seeking assistance. Inclusivity is a priority for Kim, extending beyond her team to positively influence the unit and the division. Kim leads a weekly seminar for undocumented and immigrant students, helping enhance retention. Last October, she organized the Immigrant Week of Action, amplifying diverse voices through events like the immigrant storytelling workshop. Kim's dedication ensures a welcoming space where varied experiences are heard and valued. Kim's consistent contributions, dedication to values, and exceptional service make her an outstanding candidate for the STAR of the Month Award. She stands out as a deserving recipient of this recognition.

## January Nominees

### Corrine Hall, Admissions & Outreach

Corrine supports the department in any way she can. She goes above and beyond her assignments to make everything that Admissions & Outreach does possible. From ordering event materials, to supporting event communications, Corrine is an excellent team member that I appreciate and am glad to work with. She is a dedicated employee that finds joy in collaborating with the team and actively participating in meetings. She exemplifies integrity in the work that she does with her transparent communication style and values collaborating as a group to give everyone at the table a voice.

### Stephanie Alcala, Parents and Families and Women's Resource Center

Stephanie recently began as the coordinator of both the Parents & Families Program and the Women's Resource Center. She has provided incredible service to students, families, staff, and student assistants within the programs and campus community, as well as off campus and in our community. She exemplifies the values of the "Hornet Family," being inclusive with parents and family members of our students, who may be first generation, or may have advanced degrees. She successfully trained 12 Family Ambassadors, and hosted a fun and inclusive Horner Family Reception, as well as a Parents & Families tailgate at Family Weekend. She made it fun and helped families engage with Sac State and their students in appropriate ways. She also serves female-identified students in the Women's Resource Center, from planning events that are open to all students to targeted support for a student who lost her husband, students who feel marginal in male-dominated majors, and students who have been survivors of domestic violence. Stephanie has quickly crafted a reputation for amazing service while struggling with personal challenges of her own. She is a model of service to our community as well, supporting campus with engagement with the Soroptimists, the Roberts Family Development Center, and the Parent Leader Training Institute. She is an exemplary campus and community member!

## Karina Garcia-Solorio, Student Service Center

Karina is new to the Student Service Center. However, within the short amount of time she's been here, she has done the best to make sure that not only our students get the assistance they need but makes sure our staff does too. She deals with a lot of responsibilities, but she will always make sure that if one of us is in need, she will find a way to make sure we are supported. Without a supportive environment, we're unable to meet and go beyond the needs to help all Sac State students that come in and build our department.

## Ruth Williams, DEGREES Project

I am elated to put forth Ruth's nomination for consideration with the highest enthusiasm. Ruth has demonstrated the very essence and highest standard of excellence. As the Associate Director of DEGREES Project, her team of coaches and faculty from each of the academic colleges has played an integral role in retention and completion success of URM and equity students. This is commendable and should be celebrated. Additionally, as the coordinator for the U-Mentor Program, Ms. Williams has laser focused her time and commitment to ensure all students are provided the opportunity to engage, interact, and learn from faculty and staff personal and professional life lessons. She continues to serve as a beacon for many Black/African American on and off campus as the President for the Black Faculty/Staff Association, doing this on her own time while a student in the Ed.D program. Ruth exudes all of what Sac State stands for, values and strives to be. It is without reservation, I share her story of dedication, compassion and perseverance.