

June Star Awards



Kevin Nguyen, Student Academic Success & Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP)

Kevin serves as the Administrative Coordinator for SASEEP and lead support for the APIDA Center. In this capacity, he has gone above and beyond and is highly sought out by staff members for his professionalism, work ethic and commitment to excellence. His ability to navigate highly complex situations and work collaboratively with others to support centers, programs and equity areas is commendable. For instance, he is trusted to work along and directly with external stakeholders such as donors, K-16 leaders and industry experts. Most significantly, he has been instrumental in the success of many high-profile events such as Student Academic Success Day, APIDA College Day, Healing Circles, and fundraising engagements. Having observed his work ethic and integrity, particularly during the challenges of the pandemic, brings inspiration and innovation in the office and creates synergy for the people that work with him. He is an unsung hero and one that deserves this recognition, long overdue. I hold no reservation and endorse his consideration at the highest level.

June Nominees

Theresa Barajas, Financial Aid & Scholarships

Theresa is the Assistant Director of the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. She exemplifies all aspects of the STAR of the Month Award, especially her professionalism, helpfulness, and expertise. Theresa is a subject-matter expert in nearly every area of financial aid and is our go-to person for our most complex questions. We rely on her sound judgment and input when developing new processes or interpreting regulations. Most of all, she is always ready and willing to help. Theresa is much deserving of this award.

Janet Dumonchelle, Pharmacy

I am nominating SHCS Pharmacist in Charge, Janet Dumonchelle for STAR of the month. Janet is always warm, kind, and welcoming to all students, faculty, staff, and to the public. Her dedication to promoting a healthy campus is appreciated every day. She is a critical component to our department as well as our community. We are extremely fortunate to have Janet on our team and she is most definitely a Shining Star!

Kipcia Gonzalez, Student Organizations & Leadership

Kipcia is #MADEatSacState and embodies every value that this university has. She serves as the Administrative Support Coordinator for Student Organizations and Leadership. In this role, Kipcia supports the director, associate director, assistant director, program coordinator, four program advisors, and several student assistants from Greek Life, Sports Clubs, and the Leadership areas. Before beginning her professional staff position, Kipcia started work in the Student Organizations and Leadership office as a Greek Life Student Assistant. They were committed as a student leader—working to enhance diversity and inclusion in this community. Later, she transitioned as a Graduate Assistant for the Multi-Cultural Center. She assisted the Program Coordinator in executing signature programs for the Sac State community, such as the Multi-Cultural Fair, Social Justice Leadership Seminar, and the All People's Recognition Ceremony. These events are vital programs that aid our community in feeling a sense of belonging and creating representation on this campus.

Now, as professional staff for Student Organizations and Leadership, she greets you with the warmest of welcomes. If you have had the opportunity to meet Kipcia, you know you will be validated, appreciated, and supported. Kipcia is a team player and truly wants to provide the absolute best services for our Sac State community, especially the most important members of all, our STUDENTS!

Kagen Hopkins, Financial Aid & Scholarships

Kagen has been with the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office for over a year and has become an invaluable asset to the team. As a quick learner and self-starter, Kagen has gained proficiency in numerous processes in a short amount of time. He was recently recruited to the Cal Grant team and has made tremendous progress in learning the program's complexities. Kagen is always willing to jump in when others need help. His professionalism and optimism have had a positive influence on the team, and we are lucky to have him as a colleague!

Rebecca Woods, Financial Aid & Scholarships

When you first meet Becky Woods, you might regard her as a seasoned financial aid professional with many years of experience. Yet Becky has been with the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office for just over one year. In that short amount of time, Becky has become a subject matter expertise in numerous programs and processes. She is the go-to person for many of our questions and is always willing to help her fellow colleagues. On many occasions, Becky has stepped in and finished assignments for co-workers who were out sick – even before we had a chance to ask for her assistance. She is immensely talented and a joy to work with. Becky is much deserving of the STAR of the Month award.