

March 2023 Star Awards



Robert Tran, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Robert exemplifies hard work and dedication in all that he does. Robert recently led efforts to streamline the scholarship application process for both students and reviewers, by setting word limits on the general application, and creating help texts for students for each question posed. In addition, Robert led the restructuring of the scholarship review process, to include reviewers evaluating scholarship applications from the same class level, to ensure scholarship applications are reviewed equitably. He has been an integral part in creating a CSU systems-wide scholarships group to discuss best practices and challenges. He continuously examines policies and procedures, suggesting process improvements to award more scholarship dollars to more students, with an eye toward removing barriers for students. His “can do” attitude led to an invitation to be one of two representatives from all 23 CSU campuses to work with the Chancellor’s Office to assist in the development of an efficient process for students systemwide, to apply for scholarships offered by the Chancellor’s Office.

Robert’s positive attitude and knowledge of all things scholarships makes him a valuable resource for the campus community. He consistently goes above and beyond in providing data that is integral not only to our office but that is shared with leadership, business partners and systemwide. Robert is a valuable part of the Scholarships team and an asset to the University, Student Affairs, and the CSU’s.

Karina Garcia-Solorio, Student Affairs Business Resources



Karina has gone well above and beyond the call of duty and regular responsibilities in providing support during an extensive three-year Public Art Project culminating with the grand opening/unveiling (outside the Welcome Center) on March 15th. Karina met with the Faculty Artist, Professor Andrew Connelly, on a weekly basis to ensure the project was on track. While this alone is commendable, it doesn't begin to cover the scope of her work and dedication to this project. She ordered every single material and tool needed to design and develop the first-of-its kind sculpture. Items purchased ranged from 10,000-pound steel plates to drums of hazardous industrial materials requiring special approval from Risk Management. Karina diligently tracked the cost and the delivery of every purchase. She checked them against the budget and alerted me as the project approached funding limits. She hired student assistants, independent contractors and processed their pay. She even coordinated the planning and execution of the highly successful unveiling attended by President Nelsen, VP Mills, the campus CFO, and several current and former College Deans. The project, which began in 2019, was expected to take one academic year, but we had COVID-19, and that created a significant delay. And, on top of that delay, the project turned out to be much more complicated and challenging than anyone anticipated. Throughout the many - and I mean many - changes and setbacks, Karina remained calm, kind, and helpful.

March Nominees

Ruth Williams, DEGREES Project

Ruth has shown great collaboration efforts among the SASEEP team and campus departments. She has the heart to help students in any capacity through her work as a DEGRESS Project Coordinator. She goes beyond the scope of her job duties with High School presentation on academic success and continues to share love for her passion of education by completing her Doctoral Degree in Education. Ruth has an amazing heart and loves the work that she is doing.

Adam Dowrie, University Housing Services

Adam Dowrie continues to be a STAR for University Housing Services, Student Affairs, and the Sac State community. In the month of March, Adam accomplished the following in his role (and more!): He collaborated with Athletics to promote the Stinger Challenge to increase attendance at sporting events on campus. He created new StarRez dashboards to better display information for Resident Advisors and Residence Hall Coordinators. He took on the role of managing a project of updating key storage at the residence hall front desks. He helped in putting on an event to unveil new artwork at the Welcome Center. In doing all this, Adam continued to show the same dedication, thoughtfulness, and follow-through to his work. His efforts are greatly appreciated by all students and staff in our department, and he deserves to be honored as the Shining STAR of the Month!