

## May 2025 Star Awards



### Luis Cortes, Dreamer Resource Center (Interim)

I am nominating Luis Cortes for the STAR Award because he has exemplified exceptional leadership during one of the most challenging periods in recent history. During an intense political climate that particularly affected vulnerable communities, Luis courageously accepted the challenge of stepping into the interim DRC Coordinator role to support undocumented and mixed-status family communities at Sac State.

Luis's dedication went far beyond his job requirements. He uplifted student voices by providing comprehensive professional development opportunities for student leaders, successfully led the undocu-grad program, and was consistently available to meet with students during crisis situations. Additionally, he took on the demanding day-to-day operations of the DRC, ensuring continuity of services during a critical transition period.

What makes Luis's contributions even more remarkable is that he accomplished all of this while simultaneously completing his master's degree and working on his dissertation. As a first-generation professional and student himself, he understands the unique challenges our community faces and has shown true leadership by example.

Luis's commitment to our students and community during such a high-need time demonstrates the kind of selfless service and dedication that truly deserves recognition. I am incredibly proud of him and believe he is absolutely deserving of this award.

### May 2025 Nominees

## **Gina Bryan, Guardian Scholars Program**

Gina exemplifies the division's core values through her daily work and interactions. Her strong sense of Integrity is evident in the professionalism, accountability, and ethical standards she brings to every task. She consistently delivers high-quality work in a timely manner, with a solutions-oriented mindset that reflects her personal commitment to excellence.

She promotes Wellness by contributing to a positive, supportive work environment and by showing care and compassion toward students and colleagues alike. Gina's calm presence and thoughtful communication style help create a space where others feel respected and heard.

Her commitment to Innovation shines through in the creation of data sheets that have streamlined our program's operations, demonstrating both her technical skill and her dedication to continuous improvement.

Gina embraces Inclusivity by being open to feedback and incorporating diverse perspectives into her work. She actively listens and adapts her approach to ensure that program outcomes meet the varied needs of our campus community.

Through her Collaboration with team members and campus partners, Gina demonstrates flexibility and generosity, often volunteering to support events and initiatives beyond her regular duties. Her cooperative spirit strengthens our collective impact.

Above all, Gina's actions consistently reflect a deep sense of Service—to our GSP students, to colleagues, and to the mission of GSP. Her proactive approach and dedication to student success significantly contribute to the effectiveness and reach of our work.

Gina's insight, professionalism, and positive energy make her a valued and trusted member of our GSP team and a true embodiment of the divisional values of Student Affairs.