

April Nominees

Ashley Torres, Student Organizations and Leadership

Ashley has done an incredible job in balancing support in both the leadership and Greek Life areas due to staff vacancies and leave. She led the transition of both our Leadership Initiative Program to a fully virtual setting (where we presented to over 1700 students) and our ALS79a Leadership Course in collaboration with EOP for their Summer Bridge program (supporting over 100 students in earning their first certificate). She assisted in the development and implementation an On Demand Area of Growth catalog of 12 pre-recorded content to offer asynchronous programming to LI participants to make the program easier for our students to accomplish (over 700+ students took advantage of this option). She successfully transitioned to working full time in Greek Life and has been quickly building relationships with student leaders. Her empathic nature allows her to really connect with our students on a deeper level and provide them the support they really need during such a difficult time as they navigate their own lives as well as leading organizations and councils. Her work is exemplary and I hope she can be recognized for it.

Alina Quintana, Career Center

I clicked all of the divisional values on this form because Alina's contributions include them all. Despite being a full-time graduate student, she continually goes above and beyond for our center, volunteering her time and energy in a myriad of ways to support our students and alumni. Through Instagram Live, classroom presentations, and student counseling, as well as by contributing her skills with social media, health & wellness, and career counseling best practices to our team, Alina embodies service. She is gracious, inclusive, innovative, and adds a lot of fun to our group.

Susana Carrillo, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Susana started her journey as a student employee learning the ins and outs of the Systems processes within Financial Aid & Scholarships. Upon graduation she continued her adventure with us as a Systems Analyst. Her analytical and innovative skills have allowed her to master writing queries that assist in creating efficiencies within FA and better serve our students. She has supported outreach events and presented to incoming students in Spanish. With her strong financial aid understanding, she is currently assisting in reviewing student files so they can be awarded timely. Susana continues to keep the best interest of our Financial Aid students and their families in mind by sharing inclusive ideas. Susana exemplifies and embodies all four of the Financial Aid Values: Accountability, Integrity, Whole Heartedness and Excellence! We are extremely lucky to have her as part of our TEAM!

Emanuel Melgarejo, Career Center

I am pleased to nominate Emanuel Melgarejo, Lead Career Counselor, for the Star of the Month Award. Emanuel is a talented supervisor, counselor and program designer and can always be counted on to solve difficult and complex problems and address these challenges in innovative ways. He is flexible and willing to take on extra projects to improve services and better serve our students. For example, he leveraged his career counseling background to help design staff/intern training to help prepare students for their careers beyond college. In addition, he has been recognized for his efforts to develop collaborative career programs with the Dreamer Resource Center, College Assistance Migrant Program, Veterans' Success Center, and other equity programs. He also leads our career counseling graduate intern program, coordinating with the Counselor Education program for field study and meeting the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards, understanding that a fulfilling career is important to mental well-being. In addition, he uses research and data to help inform our services and to share best practices for career services with staff and peers in Student Affairs. His skills and abilities to quickly adapt and use problem solving, technical skills, decision-making and innovation to resolve problems and identify alternative approaches are excellent. For example, the Career Center recently transitioned to virtual services due to the pandemic, and Emanuel was instrumental in transitioning our team online using student-centered approaches, and will remain active in preparing for the in-person transition from virtual to reality!