SANTA ANA COLLEGE
Annual
Classified Awards for Excellence

Chancellor’s Message
Dear Colleagues,

Every year brings a new group of students to Santa Ana College. However, our classified staff and their varied support for those students typically remains stable from year to year. It takes many people and many groups working together to create the rich history, traditions, and successes of a college like SAC. The Classified Staff play an integral and important role in the history of SAC and its many achievements, including student success.

All Classified Staff deserve recognition and thanks for their contributions. Each year, we take time out to thank all those who have helped Santa Ana College achieve another remarkable academic year. In particular, the SAC 2019 Annual Classified Awards for Excellence honors a number of the outstanding Classified Staff employed at Santa Ana College. To all those hard working employees who are being honored, I want to say many thanks for your hard work and your tireless efforts on behalf of our students. Your actions are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for all you do to encourage the success of our students!

With appreciation,

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.

President’s Message
Dear Colleagues,

Our Classified staff members provide the necessary support, in a myriad of ways to keep Santa Ana College moving forward every day. I am grateful for your commitment to provide customer service that is second to none to our new and continuing students. As we prepare to implement Guided Pathways, officially, this fall, your efforts and engagement in our campus-wide activities related to this project are appreciated.

Your dedication to make our campus a welcoming place and your unconditional support of our students do not go unnoticed. I am honored to celebrate the excellent work that you do, every day.

With much appreciation,

Dr. Linda Rose, Ed.D.
President
Theresa Hagelbarger
Job Developer
Paralegal, SAC

Theresa began as a part-time, temporary employee at Santa Ana College in August of 2013. She began her current full-time Job Developer position in February of 2018. Theresa previously worked as a Community Services Presenter for both Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College.

Among her many duties, Theresa serves on the UpSkillsOC Advisory Board, which combats family homelessness and works to identify career areas with upward mobility. Theresa continually seeks to assist colleagues with career advancement through education and professional development. She also works with the Classified Professional Development workgroup to develop new opportunities. Theresa represents classified staff on several committees, including College Council, Guided Pathways Steering Committee, and the Guided Pathways Counseling/Career Advising team. In addition, she serves on the California Internship Work Experience Association, and has presented at a variety of conferences at the request of Dr. Raul Rodriquez, Chancellor of Rancho Santiago Community College District.

“She researches, discusses, and implements new ideas, information and opportunities to benefit her colleagues and students. This trait alone has resulted in numerous students being selected for scholarships, internships and jobs that they would have otherwise not had. She stays connected with the students, which provides the college with connection to our very successful alumni,” said Dean Madeline Grant.

Congratulations to Theresa, this year’s recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year Award!

The Classified Employee of the Year honor is granted to an exceptional permanent, full time employee that exhibits dedication, exemplary skills and traits, and a commitment to excellent work performance over their tenure.

Classified Employee of the Year

Awards for Excellence

2019
H.O.T.T. (Half-of-the-Time) Award

Mayra Lopez
Counseling Assistant
EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs, SAC

Mayra works for the CalWORKs department under EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs, serving in that position for 1 year and 9 months. Mayra is passionate about helping students who are economically disadvantaged and seeking guidance to navigate college life at Santa Ana College’s CalWORKs department. Mayra engages CalWORKs students to comply with various documents, state and federal requirements, track student academic progress and provide community and campus resources for CalWORKs students. These students have multiple personal barriers and Mayra’s ability to establish positive rapport with her very caring approach makes a stay-in college difference. Mayra inspires students on their journey since she started her advanced education at a community college, attained her bachelor’s degree, and completed her Master’s in Counseling in Spring 2018.

“Mayra is very innovative. An example is she developed new student orientations that review all the various government documents students need to complete each month, which has increased retention and compliance,” said Coordinator Ann Lockhart. She also states, “SAC’s CalWORKs program has a very positive reputation due to Mayra aligning and tracking all the statewide documents required to keep students in college.”

Congratulations to Mayra for her dedication and full-time support as a part-time employee!

This award recognizes an exceptional permanent, part-time employee that exhibits dedication, exemplary skills and traits, and a commitment to excellent work performance over their tenure.
Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award

Sandra Aguilar
Administrative Clerk
Employee Services, CEC

Sandra has served for 14 years in Employee Services at Santa Ana College School of Continuing Education. Employee Services assists with status changes, scheduling, time reporting, and payroll. In Continuing Education, there are many different positions, projects and individual situations that require different time reporting guidelines and rates of pay. This is potentially complex and confusing information for any employee but Sandra’s expertise and patience help to simplify the complicated. Sandra’s attention to detailed record keeping, diligence and commitment to excellence serve faculty, staff and administrators. She takes the extra steps to answer questions quickly and professionally. Sandra has been an invaluable resource during a recent transition to a different payroll reporting system.

Coordinator Rob Jenkins states, “After several decades of managing part-time pay differently, it has been a major shift for all involved; however, Sandra seems to handle all the questions and confusion that has resulted from it in a very positive and effective way.”

Our warmest congratulations to Sandra for receiving this year’s Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award!

This award recognizes an exceptional permanent employee that is nearly indispensable and works diligently behind the scenes. This person exhibits dedication, resourcefulness, sensitivity, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Named in honor of William R. Brush, Skilled Maintenance Worker (1990).
Professional Achievement Award

Thi Nguyen
Library Technician II
Fine & Performing Arts, SAC

Thi’s first Santa Ana College work experience as a Student Library Worker inspired her to earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Library Technology. She was hired by the district as a Library Clerk in August 1988 and promoted to Library Technician in 1995. She was promoted to Library Technician II in 2002. Her experience as a Santa Ana College student and her passion for the library profession give her a heightened awareness of our diverse college community needs. She participates in service trainings, programs and activities to improve library services to students and other members of the college community. She is an active participant in Library Technology Program’s student recruitment efforts at Santa Ana College and Centennial Education Center. Since 2001, she has been instrumental in jointly requesting grant funds for the library’s student laptop-lending program, in addition to running and overseeing the program. She has also been a key contributor to the maintenance and upkeep of our college’s new pay-for-print system.

Her co-workers say that her kind, calm, and warm demeanor allow the students to be at ease when they interact with her.

Thi consistently demonstrates service and professional growth. We congratulate you!
2019 Classified Awards Finalists

Classified Employee of the Year
Monica Bustamante
Basti Lopez

Half-of-the-Time (H-O-T-T) Award
Maria Cardenas
Elizabeth Lomeli

Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award
Maria Palomares
Raquel Serratos

Professional Achievement Award
Yuri Betancourt
Sarah Salas

2019 Classified Awards Committee

Teresa Mercado-Cota, Co-Chair
Associate Dean, Public Affairs & Governmental Relations

Lithia Williams, Co-Chair
Community Services Coordinator II

Chris Wild
Classified Employee of the Year Award Recipient, 2018
Operations Specialist, SAC Bookstore

Sophia Le
H-O-T-T (Half-of-the-Time) Award Recipient, 2018
Student Services Specialist/SAC CalWORKs Program

Brenda Furlong
Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award Recipient, 2017
Accountant, Administration Services

Mary Chang
Professional Achievement Award Recipient, 2017
Instructional Assistant, CEC High School Diploma Program Program/GED

Elsa Garcia
Public Affairs & Governmental Relations

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Elizabeth M. Weber, Student Trustee

Chancellor
Raúl Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Santa Ana College President
Linda D. Rose, Ed.D.
Classified Service Pin Awards

10 Years
Debra Bailey
Jarunee Chaikaew
Fausta Medina
Hector Rodriguez
Rogelio Rosales Rojas
John Ross, Jr.

15 Years
Omar Avalos
Chris Connally
Claudia Diaz
Thao Duong
Zachary Fish
Geoffrey Jones
James Isbell
Paul Kohlhas
Anisa Latthitham
Joseph Luarte
Maria Luppani
Michael Martinez
John Math
Dale Mixer
Melanie Mowrer
William Nguyen
Martin Olivera
Chi Pham
David Phan
Anh-Phuong Tran

20 Years
Abel Arredondo
Chris Conway
Claudia Cruz
Connie Jimenez
Supreme Lim
Maria Linares
Suzanne Lohmann
Claudia Lozada
Christina Orozco
Beatriz Padilla
Luisa Ruiz
Nirbhai Singh
Steve Tlaseca
Melissa Tran
Jinhee Trone
Sophanareth Tuon
Lithia Williams

25 Years
Suzanne Freeman
leticia Lopez-Jaurequi
Romelia Madrigal
Luis Pedroza
Kenneth Sill
Irene Soriano

30 Years
Victor Aguila
Kelly Brandon
John Chambers
Robert Gallego
Teresa Grijalva
Mark Higgins
Thuy Nguyen
Lillian Reimer
Salvador Sanchez
Reyes Vazquez

35 Years
Tai Banh
Dennis Sadler
Mary Castellanos
Sylvia Gordon

45 Years
Susana Albuja

Thank you

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