

BERKELEY STAFF ASSEMBLY

Leading in Difficult Times

Excellence in Management 2021
Virtual Awards Ceremony

4 MAY 2021 • 2 PM
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
ZOOM



Berkeley Staff Assembly

The Berkeley Staff Assembly is an organization open to all staff employees. BSA will keep you informed about important staff issues, encourage you to voice your opinions to campus administration, and offer an opportunity to become involved in campus life. For more information, visit bsa.berkeley.edu.

Excellence in Management Committee

The EIM Committee is a UC Berkeley team of staff volunteers committed to honoring the best of campus leadership.

Lasana Hotep
BSA EIM Sponsor, DEIB Director

Arlene Banaga
BSA EIM Chair

Irania Alarcon
Lupe Gallegos-Diaz
Sarah Gaugler
Debbie Jan
Nicole Lowy
Michael Mann
Kalie Sacco

Sydney Saubestre
Serra Sengra
Anthony Suen
Sharon Trahan
Sumali Tuchrello
Margie Winn

Leading in Difficult Times

This is the 33rd year of recognizing Berkeley's exemplary managers and supervisors. The theme this year is "Leading in Difficult Times" which highlights leadership that demonstrates and encourages resilience, inclusiveness, compassion, adaptiveness, work-life balance, well-being/morale.

Nominees are managers or supervisors that exemplify the theme in one of more of the following ways:

Resilience and adaptiveness

Manager/supervisor models resilience in strenuous situations, adaptability to constantly changing circumstances, and builds up team members by being a source of strength and dependability

Active and intentional engagement around diversity, inclusion, and belonging

Manager/supervisor is always mindful of cultural distinctions, welcomes differing viewpoints, looks to strengthen team dynamics, and nurtures an environment of inclusivity

Compassion, work-life balance, well-being/morale

Manager/supervisor encourages work/life balance of team members, supports mental health and well-being, and is sympathetic and understanding of team members

Nomination Criteria

- ① Career employee
- ② Non-academic employee
- ③ Had management or supervisory responsibilities for at least one year in their current positions (including interim roles)

Nominations must come from staff directly supervised by the nominee, and included supporting signatures from at least one-half of these staff plus a letter of nomination.

84 Award Recipients at a Glance

Page 5

Amy Chen
Amy Utstein
Angela Ford

Page 6

Avni Kansara
Barbara Tassielli
Bradley Evans
Bradley Jong
Brian Underwood
Camille Crittenden
Cara Stanley

Page 7

Carina Galicia
Carolyn Clark
Carolyn Iyoya Irving
Carson Christiano
Clara Dellenbach
Colleen Rovetti
Courtney Chandler

Page 8

Cruz Grimaldo
Daniel Grieb
Danny Pestal
David Trinkle
Donna Hendrix
Elena Wen Jiang
Erin McDevitt

Page 9

Erin Skelly
Eugene Whitlock
Eunice Kwon
Faith Enemark
Gladys Oddoye
Guy Nicolette
Howard Heevner

Page 10

Jamie Breen
Jan Johnson
Jennifer Simon-O'Neill
Jesse Dieker
Joanne Straley
Joshua Hummel
Julian Ledesma

Page 11

Justin Cocke
Kaetlin Henry
Kathryn Lewis
Kathryn Moriarty Baldwin
Khuyen V. Nguyen
Kristi Mitchell
Kyle Valenti

Page 12

La Shana Porlaris
Larry Jackson
Laura Fredriksen
Laura Melendy
Leah Bridle
Leti Light
Linda Algazzali

Page 13

Liz Rosenberg
Mari Knuth-Bouracee
Mark A. Kinnard
Marvin Lopez
Maya Serban
Melody Heller
Michelle Dylla

Page 14

Moon Jang-Shinn
Olufemi "Femi" Ogundele
Pam Chan
Phil Walz
Ram Kapoor
Rebecca Andersen
Rebecca Sablo

Page 15

Robert Penman
Ryan Cobb
Sandra Benjamin Richmond
Scott Rief
Serena Groen
Sharon Mueller
Stephany Baker-Prince

Page 16

Takiyah Jackson
Teresa Rodriguez
Thembi Jackson
Tobirus Newby
Ute Frey
Veronica Padilla
Víc Sánchez

Page 17

Vicki Hammarstedt
Walter Wong
Wendy 'Quin' Hussey
Zema Katsnelson

Awardees

Amy Chen

EH&S Fire Prevention Division

Amy's leadership-by-example, which inspires all of us to work harder, faster and smarter to maintain continuity of service to the campus community in spite of all the added responsibilities, complications and anxieties. This is all accomplished while taking the time to check in with each other and offer support wherever possible.

Amy Utstein

Berkeley Law Clinical Program

Amy encourages us to recognize limits and boundaries, and trusts us to make positive choices for ourselves and our families. Working from home means we sometimes have varied schedules and Amy trusts us to get our work done while finding a healthy work-life balance. She's continuously made herself available to discuss potential obstacles and find solutions, and does so with a very positive attitude and compassionate heart.

Angela Ford

Sponsored Projects Office

Angela demonstrates compassion to her staff during these trying times. During her one-on-one check-ins with us, she emphasizes the priority of work-life balance by encouraging us to take the Administrative days off, if needed, and provides us with the information on various campus-wide programs and resources to relieve staff stress and reduce staff burn-out during the pandemic.

Program

2:00 pm	Welcome Remarks BSA EIM Chair Arlene Banaga
2:05 pm	Opening Remarks BSA EIM Sponsor & DEIB Director Lasana Hotep
2:10 pm	Awards Presentation MC Michael Mann
3:40 pm	Closing Remarks Chancellor Carol T. Christ
3:45 pm	Closing BSA EIM Chair Arlene Banaga

Awardees

Avni Kansara

Evening & Weekend
MBA Program Office

We were able to assist volunteer student leaders in their push for creating more intentional inclusive spaces for new students such as an LGBTQ+ happy hour where students and allies could build connections and community. She was empathetic to their concerns, to their feedback and to the feedback and stress levels of staff members. Her passion and dedication to the students, staff, and faculty is inspiring.

Barbara Tassielli

Berkeley Study
Abroad

Her resilience, adaptability, and creative problem-solving skills when faced with challenging circumstances have been an inspiration and a model to all of us who work with her, and they were on full display through countless Zoom calls in those first several months of the pandemic and its aftermath for our office, and indeed ever since.

Bradley Evans

BEARS Region,
Berkeley Regional Services

Not only is Bradley as available as possible to the team, he serves as a guiding light, maintaining professionalism and positive attitude even in the face of seemingly insurmountable workload or projects. His willingness to support us when we need action from campus management enables us to be great Supervisors who can in turn thoroughly support and provide a strong foundation for our teams.

Bradley Jong

Full Time MBA Program,
Haas School of Business

Our work is sometimes challenging and emotionally taxing, but knowing that Bradley is there to guide us, help us process and back us up allows us to do our best work, to show compassion towards others and to be our authentic selves. He has worked thoughtfully to create a deep sense of psychological safety and genuine sense of belonging for all his staff in this ever-changing and uncertain environment.

Brian Underwood

Mathematics

Brian approaches his work without ego and he possesses a curiosity and humbleness that creates an environment where his staff can feel safe to be themselves, to challenge the status quo, and to try new things. This has been critical in light of everything happening right now on our campus and in our world. What used to work well doesn't always serve us now and he both comes up with ideas for how we might adapt, as well as creating a space for staff to share their ideas.

Camille Crittenden

CITRIS and
the Banatao
Institute

Camille has acknowledged this additional stress and has taken on a strong leadership role in empowering staff to identify strategies that work well for them. By maintaining a positive can-do attitude and acknowledging that staff are facing new constraints, Camille has been a key driver of resiliency and morale within our center.

Cara Stanley

Student Learning Center

One of the greatest joys about working at the SLC is how much Cara cares about our well-being and, through what we've come to recognize as compassionate accountability, inspires us to do our very best work. Consistently, Cara demonstrates the belief that a high-functioning organization can only be maintained by a work culture that values staff and invests in their well-being.

Awardees

Carina Galicia

Biosciences Divisional
Services: Integrative Biology
and Molecular & Cell Biology

Carina is guided by kindness. When working with her staff, she treats us as humans first. Since the shelter in place began, we've each been faced with challenges, both personal and professional, and Carina has acknowledged both. She helps us strategize new timelines and programming that the pandemic has necessitated, while also encouraging work-life balance.

Carolyn Clark

Department of
Mechanical Engineering

Ms. Clark's attention to detail goes far beyond numbers and figures. Her attention to detail is most precise when it comes to taking proper care of her team. She has an acute awareness of the advising schedule as well as administrative and events calendar. She often steps in to provide direct service assistance to students and faculty during the busiest times of the year when we are unavailable.

Carolyn Iyoya Irving

Constituent Programs,
University Development
and Alumni Relations

Through her flexibility and desire to constantly attend to my personal needs, she has been a support and inspiration during the pandemic, helping me get my work done and yet also attend to my health and well-being. She has been a loyal partner in my work projects and always makes time to support me- even when she is incredibly busy with her own projects.

Carson Christiano

Center for Effective
Global Action

Carson was acutely mindful of cultural distinctions, welcomed differing viewpoints, and aimed to strengthen team dynamics by nurturing an environment of inclusivity at CEGA. Carson integrates coaching as a tool for developing her staff to be more resilient and adaptive, and growing their abilities to take on more complex work, solve complex problems, implement solutions and perform at higher levels.

Clara Dellenbach

Annual Programs,
University Development
and Alumni Relations

While 2020 was a storm we never want to go through again, Clara sailed through it, leading her team with creativity, compassion, and character. Clara Dellenbach's leadership, generosity, and caring personality make her the best captain we could ever ask for. Clara always finds a way to navigate whatever "waves" of problems crash our team's ship, which also speaks to her openness.

Colleen Rovetti

External Relations & Marketing
Communications, University
Development Alumni Relations

She celebrates differences and has each employee take the Strengths Finder assessment, so she knows how to promote each person's unique strength set. She encourages a range of formal and informal professional development tools, such as mentoring, coaching, and education opportunities. It is incredibly obvious that Colleen cares about her team's well-being. She treats everyone with dignity and respect. She keeps morale high by being open, transparent, and models vulnerability.

Courtney Chandler

Haas School
of Business

Courtney exemplifies the Principles of Community and the Haas Defining Leadership Principles, daily in her work to question the status quo and go beyond herself. She has confidence without attitude, demonstrated by her analytical mind and gentle line of inquiry, and she is truly a student always. She is a pleasure to work with and the campus is better for her efforts!

Awardees

Cruz Grimaldo

Financial Aid and Scholarships
& Cal Student Central

Cruz recognizes the strength that a diverse team brings and embraces the different experiences, backgrounds, and thoughts that each staff member brings to the team, and welcomes the range of viewpoints. Cruz not only expresses appreciation to her teams and departments directly, but consistently expresses her concern for staff morale and well-being as well.

Daniel Grieb

Enterprise Data and
Analytics

Even under pressure to deliver with stringent timelines, Danny continually took steps to prevent the team from burning out, promoted work-life balance, and managed the expectations of the project sponsors and functional partners (EHS and UHS). He always reminded the team of the great job they were doing and expressed appreciation for their ability to deal with shifting requirements in such a fluid situation.

Danny Pestal

UC Berkeley Marvell NanoLab

Danny is always available and helpful when needed or asked but does not nano-manage. He expects a lot from his team but gives us what we need to succeed in our tasks. His level and pleasant attitude and demeanor is complimented by his vast knowledge and willingness to share it when needed.

Danny is the type of leader that makes all in his team want to accomplish more and inspires them to make it happen.

David Trinkle

Berkeley Research
Development Office

He is skilled at nurturing an inclusive and cooperative team dynamic in which diverse viewpoints are not just accepted but encouraged and valued. This climate of equity and inclusion is further supported by his longstanding practice of ensuring that we all have opportunities to participate in decision-making and strategic priority setting, thus giving us each a voice in shaping the direction of our office as it grows.

Donna Hendrix

California Institute for
Quantitative Biosciences
(QB3-Berkeley)

Donna is a dedicated and conscientious manager who consistently creates a work environment in which we feel comfortable, included, and valued. Donna's management style and work ethic has created a place where we are all able to thrive and offer QB3-Berkeley faculty, postdocs, students, and staff the exceptional research and learning experience that our community deserves.

Elena Wen Jiang

Vice Chancellor of
Administration -
Immediate Office

As a supervisor who has one direct report and eight dotted-line reports from departmental finance leads, Elena is always a role model and an inspiration to her colleagues for her hard work, endless patience, and superb positive attitude. Regardless of big or small tasks, Elena is committing to supply crystal-clear direction, share her seasoned knowledge and uplifting encouragement with everyone as much as she can.

Erin McDevitt

Campaign Planning,
University Development and
Alumni Relations

As 2020 unfolded, and we were faced (personally and professionally) with uncertainty, stress and worry, Erin was a constant source of comfort and support. She made sure our team felt valued and had the space and time to process all that was happening without worry of being judged for lack of focus, dealing with family distractions or other challenges.

Awardees

Erin Skelly

Berkeley International Office

Erin has demonstrated excellent management skills through her oversight of internal and external processes, her empathy for and support of her staff members, and through her own example of a dedicated and passionate member of the team. She has been a guiding force in our adaptation to the continuous change of the past year.

Eugene Whitlock

People & Culture

Eugene's actions reflect that he values us as more than mere employees; that we are individuals who are affected by events external to the organization. He consistently demonstrates empathy, compassion, and reasonableness, while also setting clear expectations and providing constructive feedback. He supports our well-being by encouraging us to take the time we need and modeling these behaviors himself.

Eunice Kwon

Asian Pacific American Student Development

As a manager Eunice values the input of all team members. She provided alternatives and platforms we could use to stay engaged, she encouraged us to prioritize our physical and mental health, she allowed students to have modified hours and more flexibility in their work, and most importantly she prioritized the wellbeing of her team, as opposed to its outputs. Eunice is the most compassionate manager I have ever come across.

Faith Enemark

Rhetoric, Film & Media, and History of Art

Always prepared to lend a helping hand, laugh with her staff, and offer support when needed, Faith is someone who leads with kindness and warmth on a daily basis. She is resilient as she manages three active departments during a pandemic with a calm, light-hearted, yet collected demeanor.

Gladys Oddoye

IST Telecommunications

Gladys' management style is supportive, informative and accommodating. Gladys engages her team in the process of making business decisions so that everyone is included and can provide their input before changes are implemented that affect the team. As a result, she inspires the best from our team.

Guy Nicolette

University Health Services

He models calm and compassion, and is the same in every situation and with every person - appreciative and thoughtful, with a perspective that we will all get through this by listening and problem-solving together. With regard to the challenge and opportunity of the national racial reckoning, Guy has demonstrated an emphatic support of the work of combating anti-black racism and responding to the requests of staff to hear more from him.

Howard Heevner

Annual Programs, University Development and Alumni Relations

He pivoted during this time and not only was able to validate work by unit and staff- but also create new ways to contribute to the university mission. In response to the campus' growing needs to combat the disastrous effects of COVID-19, Howard was instrumental in promoting the creation of the UC Berkeley COVID-19 Giving Hub, the campus' first ever issues based crowdfunding hub.

Awardees

Jamie Breen

Haas School of Business

Jamie's hallmark as a manager includes: Vigorous support of our efforts to innovate and experiment; a management consultant's ability to foresee future problems and opportunities; a willingness to pitch in to help the staff, including some of the most menial tasks; an ability to see when we're in trouble and need help; unstinting advocacy for our programs and our students.

Jan Johnson

East Asian Languages
and Cultures and the
CASMA Administrative Cluster

Jan has shown care and responsiveness to the multi-faceted and intense social issues of the day. She encourages staff to participate in training and campus groups, and to take advantage of outside opportunities to increase our awareness and understanding of the complex diversity, equity and inclusion issues affecting the campus and the community at large.

Jennifer Simon-O'Neill

Intercollegiate
Athletics

Jenny is trusted to operate always with the utmost integrity, and she has become a valued leader and manager in the athletic department that others consistently gravitate to. In my role overseeing communications, I trust her implicitly and I know others do, too. I have seen her handle intensely challenging issues with compassion and a steady hand. She is respected and admired universally for her engaging style of management and leadership.

Jesse Dieker

Sutardja Center for
Entrepreneurship and
Technology

Jesse has shown tremendous sensitivity to the morale and work-life balance of the both the staff and management team at the Center. She communicated clearly and consistently on the [reduction in staffing] situation, well in advance of any action, allowing managers time to plan and carefully consider how the non-renewal of contracts could best be handled and implemented.

Joanne Straley

Department of Plant
and Microbial Biology

This last year would have been much more difficult if it wasn't for Joanne's resilience and adaptiveness. Joanne advocated for us and kept our safety as the top priority. She made the transition from in-person to working from home as seamless as possible for the entire team, and provided strength, guidance, and levity during a very stressful time full of uncertainty.

Joshua Hummel

Intercollegiate
Athletics

He was very understanding about specific needs, such as staff with children, ailing parents, or underlying health concerns. Josh made accommodations for all. Through all his tireless work, Josh has retained his sense of humor, and we have remained a team with a focus and common purpose. As we continue to navigate through changing Covid guidelines, he encourages his staff to learn and grow as we find a way to move forward together.

Julian Ledesma

The Centers for
Educational Equity
and Excellence (CE3)

Julian models the values of collaboration, teamwork, compassion, and responsiveness. His "challenge and support" management approach pushes us to learn and grow. He encourages and provides opportunities for us to be our authentic selves, to speak honestly and transparently about our perspectives and our work—successes and struggles--and to access whatever resources we need to work optimally.

Awardees

Justin Cocke

Richmond Field
Station

Justin has been exceptionally adaptive and resilient in the face of numerous unexpected challenges this past year. From equipment failures to COVID-inspired with respect to facilities needs, Justin has maintained a calm resolve and expertly coordinated remedies with his crew as needed.

Kaetlin Henry

Berkeley International Office

Kaetlin has consistently maintained a calm and measured demeanor and open-minded approach to identifying solutions for new challenges. Kaetlin demonstrates this theme by recognizing and supporting our individual team members' diverse strengths and contributions, encouraging our professional development in our areas of interest and opportunities to apply our unique skills on the job.

Kathryn Lewis

Industry Alliances Office

During the most challenging period many of us have ever faced, Kate has led our team with grace -- demonstrating resilience, adaptability and compassion. She has supported and nurtured each of us both personally and professionally during this period, and created a culture of openness, collaboration and mutual respect within our team. She is an asset to our team, department, and the entire campus.

Kathryn Moriarty Baldwin

Office of College Relations,
Rausser College of Natural
Resources

Kathryn not only leads by example, but sets the tone, rhythm and quality of interpersonal engagement that shapes our work, both internally and externally. I'm not really sure how she finds time to be so interested and invested in the well-being of her team--demonstrating superhuman levels of commitment to the College's mission while at the same time empowering others through her humor, wisdom and empathy.

Khuyen V. Nguyen

Student Learning
Center

She makes each of us better by association and her belief in us allows us to imagine and seek the very best for ourselves--as learning specialists, as UC Berkeley employees, and as human beings. Many of the conversations she has spontaneously initiated over the past year have been transformative for our work and our support of one another. They have allowed us to generate trust and innovate through empathy.

Kristi Mitchell

The School of Information

Without exception she was compassionate and understanding, recognizing that in many instances people's goals and standards were unreasonably high and that truly it was a priority that we practice self-care. Her dependable accessibility (she openly shared her cell phone for texts messages) and her explicit commitment to caring for our team as a whole and for each team member, helped to alleviate pandemic related anxieties.

Kyle Valenti

Berkeley Law
Student Services

He is accepting of different viewpoints, asks our opinions, and nurtures our ideas as well as our ownership of our tasks and projects. He helps us navigate the space between student needs and administrative procedures with great skill and sensitivity, while being very intentional about making students feel supported and heard.

Awardees

La Shana Porlaris

Department of
Statistics

La Shana has shown her staff empathy during this difficult time and has been very flexible when it comes to her staff balancing work with parenting, family health issues, and the overall anxiety of living through a pandemic. La Shana makes sure to communicate, educate and encourage her team to utilize policies related to Covid, families, and managing a positive work-life balance.

Larry Jackson

Career Center

During times of extreme stress when we were new to remote working, Larry maintained a positive attitude, showing transparency by being open and up front with information about the leadership team's plan in progress. He allowed flexible schedules whether we were working through family issues or pursuing our own work-life goals. His resilience inspired us to assume accountability for this complex and delicate process.

Laura Fredriksen

Chemistry

During our meetings she would assess our progress and identify any bottlenecks that needed addressing. When necessary, she would assign additional personnel (often volunteering herself despite her already overwhelming list of responsibilities) to tackle the issue. Thanks to her decision making and management skills, we have been able to succeed in spite of the challenges we faced. In less than a year, Laura has established herself as an irreplaceable leader.

Laura Melendy

Institute of Transportation
Studies and the Technology
Transfer Program

Laura brings out the best in her staff by trusting their competence and judgement; encouraging growth and exploration; and creating a safe and supportive work environment. Laura is always mindful of cultural distinctions, welcomes differing viewpoints, looks to strengthen team dynamics, and nurtures an environment of inclusivity. The level of trust we have in her is incredible.

Leah Bridle

The Center for
Effective Global
Action (CEGA)

Interpersonally, Leah is an exemplary team player. She commands quiet respect from the rest of our colleagues at the Center for Effective Global Action -- she's not the first one to speak up at staff meetings, but when she does, her contribution is incredibly thoughtful, cognizant of staff constraints, informed by deep knowledge of what's been done before, and, above all, eminently thoughtful towards the human beings working on these projects.

Leti Light

University Development
and Alumni Relations

Leti consistently checks in with her employees to ensure that we feel supported, and has been a paragon of flexibility, intentionality, and grace throughout the past year. She brings a nuanced and insightful equity lens into our advancement work, which has bolstered our ability to leverage philanthropic partnerships to advance DEIB for campus and the community. Leti has led with tremendous grace and compassion during the pandemic, while guiding our team to unprecedented fundraising success.

Linda Algazzali

Fisher Center for Real Estate
& Urban Economics at the
Haas School of Business

Linda is that rare type of manager who actively supports all her staff effectively. She is a big reason the staff she supervises love coming to work every day and have been working for the Center for years. This is because of her diverse and flexible skillset when managing each of us. She blended our team's very different personalities, backgrounds, and work styles through her flexibility and simple dedication to each of us.

Awardees

Liz Rosenberg

Haas Development and
Alumni Relations

She provides a compassionate and safe environment that prioritizes transparency and honesty, advocates for team to receive necessary resources to be successful in our roles, inspired our team to rethink our scope of work to accommodate a virtual setting, while providing unyielding support and encouragement, proponent for balanced workday schedules / work-life balance, active promoter for DEIB.

Mari Knuth-Bouracee

PATH to Care
Center

Mari leads with compassion, facilitates work-life integration, promotes well-being and mental health, and encourages positive morale, including being sympathetic and understanding of team members. She is mindful about checking in with supervisees after regional, national and international tragedies and exemplifies strong skills in meeting staff where they are at while understanding each person has individual identities.

Mark A. Kinnard

Residential Student
Services Program
Custodial Services

Dependability is one of Mark's greatest attributes. He can always be counted on when we need help or an immediate response to complete a task. His use of the word "we" is a positive reflection of his management style—Mark's outlook on working as "one team" has allowed him great success in building a strong custodial department throughout his career. He has created an environment that promotes communication, trust, cooperation, and respect for differences.

Marvin Lopez

Engineering
Student Services

Marvin has demonstrated wonderful compassion by helping sustain our team morale and promoting well-being. He leads by example, making an unhurried, safe space at every single meeting for us to share how we are really doing. He reminds us to address our self-care needs, and is our advocate when we need to connect to more support. He celebrates our achievements with us and for us.

Maya Serban

BEST Region, Berkeley
Regional Services

Maya is extremely diplomatic and professional. She uses positive reinforcement and provides tactful feedback. She works with everyone's personalities and strengths. She is a remarkable example of respectfulness and integrity. All of these traits benefit the well-being of the staff. She leads by example by encouraging health and well-being and conveying staff input up and down the management structure.

Melody Heller

University Health
Services

There was immense pressure to open testing sites, calls from all over the campus demanding that our students be tested. Unfortunately, when we found spaces that met all the clinical requirements, IT needs, and accessibility necessities, we were turned away. Melody was never phased, never rattled, she was able to put together a team that simply put, got things done. She was able to find a common voice among a diverse group that did not get along. She gives her best. Truly she is the most remarkable leader I have ever worked with.

Michelle Dylla

Summer Sessions,
Study Abroad, and
Lifelong Learning

Through many changes within our organization and within our world, Michelle has been able to build accountability as well as confidence within our team. She has been an anchor during the storm of this year navigating uncertainty with confidence and grace. Not only is Michelle an adaptive and organized professional, but she also supports the well-being of her staff and works to build the morale of the team.

Awardees

Moon Jang-Shinn

Summer Sessions,
Study Abroad, and
Lifelong Learning

Accountable and transparent, Moon is realistic and forthcoming about any difficulties being faced in the workplace. One reliably knows if Moon is involved we will have a steady leader to guide us through changing circumstances. With the added difficulties of COVID it was not only beneficial but a relief and comfort.

Olufemi Ogundele

Office Of Undergraduate
Admissions

Under Femi's leadership, we continue on. He encourages innovative thinking, data-based decision-making, and gives the team the autonomy to manage schedules to be able to navigate this new world while still serving our incoming students. He also remains hopeful - expressing that hope and belief in our team. On more than one occasion, Femi has had to express the importance of taking care of ourselves and the importance of who we are as whole individuals.

Pam Chan

Direct Response Marketing,
Annual Programs, University
Development and Alumni Relations

She asks for our participation in key decisions that affect our work. She does not mandate strategy, and carefully listens to our point of views. There is not one person on our team that has not felt her exceptional outreach to make us feel that we belong on this team, and that we each have unique talents to bring. She gives each of us projects that allow us to shine and show our strengths. By her example, she teaches all of us to be kinder, better human beings.

Phil Walz

Department of Economics

Phil cares about his staff and wants us all to succeed at our roles within the department. He takes time to guide and mentor us in our professional and career development, so we can provide quality service to our faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Economics. Phil strives to assure relevant staff are involved and have a voice in related matters.

Ram Kapoor

Communications
and Public Affairs

We believe he has enormous personal respect for all of us, and for work-life balance. He has cut each of us slack when we needed it to deal with disasters both big and small. When one of us recently lost everything in a house fire, he instantly organized the team to take turns providing food for her family. This is just one example of his warmth and understanding.

Rebecca Andersen

The School of
Information

Rebecca has always trusted her staff and allowed us to work in ways that are best for us, and even more so now with remote work. She understands that work and life have to go hand-in-hand, especially while people are balancing work, home life, kids, and stress differently than pre-pandemic. She empowers us to make decisions, encourages us to take ownership over how we work with our students, and embraces that we all have our own approaches to student advising. Rebecca is a resilient, adaptive, and positive leader by nature.

Rebecca Sablo

Office of the
Registrar

Because of Rebecca's excellent leadership, we have all come through a difficult year with improved workflows, a better understanding of one another's work, and a renewed commitment to diversity and inclusion in our department and beyond. She has encouraged us all to look for ways that our work can nurture inclusivity among students and staff.

Awardees

Robert Penman

Office of Undergraduate
Admissions

He epitomizes servant leadership which our staff greatly appreciates. What truly makes Robert exceptional is that he always finds time to make every staff member he comes in contact with feel supported and cared for. He encourages our team to stay engaged and focused on objectives and provides constructive feedback as well as praise and encouragement.

Ryan Cobb

Intercollegiate Athletics

Ryan single-handedly set up an infrastructure that allowed Cal Athletics to do daily testing, get results and report those results daily in compliance with the campus, University Health Services, and the State of California. He keeps each unit up to date on changes to any policies and procedures. This allows the units to make changes and improvements as things constantly change. There isn't an individual more deserving of the recognition that this award represents.

Sandra Benjamin Richmond

African American Studies,
Gender and Women's Studies
and Ethnic Studies

Sandy's humane approach to management exhibits the epitome of an leader. She inspires those she leads to not only be better employees but human beings by leading by example. Sandy is always compassionate and empathetic to others. She approaches every situation with rigorous knowhow, style, kindness, and grace. She meets individuals where they are and teaches and motivates them in ways to truly achieve together.

Scott Rief

Haas School of Business,
Marketing & Communications

He strikes the perfect balance between helping us prioritize our workloads and progress toward our goals but also encourages us to take personal time when we need it. He is approachable yet willing to be candid and honest which has encouraged clear lines of communication. Scott has empowered us to set our own individual goals that contribute to the overall team's success and mission.

Serena Groen

The Charles and Louise
Travers Department of
Political Science

Serena is maintaining our already strong sense of community by developing and delivering creative virtual team building activities while we're outside the office. Serena's actions have culminated in an environment in which we all feel appreciated and respected, as both professionals and individuals - something that is particularly helpful while so many are feeling disconnected from others.

Sharon Mueller

Engineering
Student Services

Sharon supported the staff by providing up-to-the minute information and developing contingency plans to minimize negative impacts on staff. As changes occurred, she developed new protocols and procedures that supported her staff's ability to manage our assignments. Sharon provides a safe, productive, fun workplace that also allows us to take care of ourselves and our families during this difficult time. Self-care isn't just a buzzword. It is modeled and encouraged.

Stephany Baker-Prince

The Fung Institute for
Engineering Leadership,
College of Engineering

Aside from her competence, patience, heart and gratitude, the most defining feature of Stephany is her resilience and commitment to not only the Fung Institute but her team. She has greatly inspired staff to do and be better, as a colleague and team member, and to try to lead more by (her) example. She is driven by the values of being a great leader, motivator, and strategist.

Awardees

Takiyah Jackson

African American
Student Development

She takes a genuine people-first approach which allows everyone to be seen as humans first. She prioritizes health, wellness and community and leads by example -- demonstrating what work-life balance can look like at different stages of your life. This is what makes her an excellent manager. Takiyah has created a space that feels like a family.

Teresa Rodriguez

Letters & Science
Undergraduate Studies
Division

Teresa demonstrates each day through her actions and the way she chooses to relate to those around her, what an exceptional leader looks like. Her awareness of the value of work-life balance, and her understanding that people sometimes have things to deal with outside of the office, have a positive effect on morale. She brightens our work experience. Her wonderful imagination and sense of humor make us smile and laugh. And her unequivocal certainty of her staff's capabilities is immeasurably empowering. And for all this we can think of no one worthier of this year's Excellence in Management award!

Thembi Jackson

Berkeley School of Law

Ms. Jackson is a patient and kind mentor for her staff with less robust tech skills. She models learning and engagement, team-building and creativity, while remaining results-oriented and professional. Jackson is both a warm and personable leader on the Berkeley Law Engagement Committee and a fearless advocate for more diversity in the law school through her role on the steering committee of the Staff Circle on Anti-Racism (SCAR).

Tobirus Newby

University Health Services,
Social Services

Tobirus emanates joy and excitement about our work individually and as a team. His supervisory actions match his words that it is just and right to seek accountability from oneself, from him, and from the university. His encouragement and support is always backed up by resources. He believes that leadership is a partnership of power with our team.

Ute Frey

Berkeley Haas
Marketing &
Communications

Never losing sight of her humanity is one of Ute's hallmarks. The first question she always asks during our individual check-in meetings each week is, "How are you?" We never doubt that she genuinely cares about our well-being. Ute's people-first perspective offers a voice of clarity during this time of uncertainty. She is the epitome of "How can I help?"

Veronica Padilla

Earth & Planetary
Science

By modeling exemplary active listening skills and compassion, Veronica forges a safe space for staff to share any personal struggles and thereby helps make us feel more cared for and engaged. Veronica encourages her staff to present our true, authentic selves and bring to bear our unique talents to the betterment of the department and the university. Veronica's exemplary leadership has helped combat the forced physical isolation of the past year and helped ensure that the department staff remains cohesive and motivated.

Víc Sánchez

Residential Life

Vic's passion for and commitment to the holistic development of their supervisees has inspired us to incorporate better practices in our work, especially as we have needed to adapt to the ever-changing needs of the pandemic. Their ability to integrate a critical equity and social justice lens with genuine compassion, even during some of the most challenging crises and decisions, reminds us to center the people and values that bring meaning to the work we do every day.

Awardees

Vicki Hammarstedt

Berkeley Advanced
Media Institute

She worked tirelessly with our team, empowered everyone to join and contribute, even though we were in uncharted waters. Vicki always meets her staff where they are and understands the other demands on our lives, and ensures that we are working the number of hours we want to and are able to.

Walter Wong

Office of the Registrar

Walter has modeled resiliency and adaptability for the campus at large and for his staff. He has consistently advocated for approaches in the crisis that take into account the well-being of his staff and has incorporated models of collaboration that allow his staff to do their best work while also engaging campus partners and sharing resources and learning.

Wendy 'Quin' Hussey

Berkeley School of
Public Health-
Student Services Team

Quin is a champion around self care and mental health. In addition to supporting individual needs, she also encourages faculty and staff alike publicly in large meetings the importance of self care, taking mental health days, and recognizing that taking care of our mind is just as important as the body. Quin makes working at Berkeley one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences an employee could ask for.

Zema Katsnelson

UC Berkeley PATH -
Connected Corridors

Zema has shown such grace, resiliency, and leadership every step of the way. As the team transitioned to working from home, Zema encouraged everyone to get the tools and supplies they needed to work effectively. He regularly encourages the team to take care of themselves and their families and openly shares what he is doing to care for his physical and emotional health.

Special thanks

Chancellor Carol T. Christ | Lasana Hotep | Douglas McSkimming |
Moffit Library: UC Library Copy Center - Columba Munoz