

Staff Appreciation Day | Chancellor's Award Nominees

On Thursday, April 8, 2021 join Chancellor Whitney, the Academic Professional's Advisory Council and the Civil Service Advisory Council in celebrating our outstanding Academic Professionals and Civil Service Employee with the Annual Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award and the Annual Chancellor's Award for Recognizing Excellence at 2:00 pm via Zoom. During this celebration we are pleased to recognize the following [Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award Nominees](#) & [Chancellor's Award for Recognizing Excellence Nominees](#) and hear who the winners are.

Join the event via Zoom:

Zoom link: <https://uis.zoom.us/j/86159196216?pwd=SHZVaklrVVZpVUIrbm1jNWtBTGJ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 5919 6216

Password: 952033

2021 Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award Winner



Stacey Gilmore

Director, Cox Children's Center

“Stacey is one of the most committed members of the UIS community... Parents rely on Stacey's honesty, care, and dedication to ensure their children's learning, health and safety, development and fun.”

2021 Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award Nominees



Gael Carnes

Assistant to the Chair and Online Coordinator, Public Administration

Gael “is friendly and down-to-earth. No one should ever feel they could not approach her. She is dedicated, steadfast, and ethical. She is also fun!”



Renee Clausner

Assistant to the Dean, College of Business and Management

Renee “represents the CBM with professionalism, candor, and expertise in external and internal committees and other groups. She is knowledgeable and always willing and able to help in all of her areas of responsibility (and more). She is a vital member of our college.”



Sarah Collins

Writing Coordinator, The Learning Hub

Sarah is “creative, dedicated, and passionate. She continues to be actively involved in helping to grow The Learning Hub and to improve the writing resources for all students at UIS, but especially the first-year students.”



Sean Crawford

Broadcast Reporter and Director of Editorial, NPR Illinois

“Sean’s work has the mix of both quality and quantity. He cares about the performance of NPR Illinois and has adjusted through many transitions to make sure the vast audience is informed professionally.”



Myra Kaufman

Assistant Director Recruitment, Graduate Public Service Internship

“Myra is a creative and innovative problem solver... She has helped create an environment in the Graduate Intern Office that is warm and welcoming to all students, particularly those who may need a little more guidance and orientation to our culture.”



Craig McFarland

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

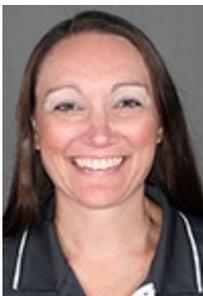
Craig's positive outlook and involvement on campus have created a universal approach to mentoring. His knowledge of the institution, position, and his ability to connect with others is highly effective in creating immediate rapport and trust with students, faculty, and staff."



Erin Sotelo

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, College of Business and Management

"Every day, Erin shows passion for her work... She understands students' needs and ways that they progress academically, and she is able to clearly explain the effects on students of new curricular proposals."



Allison Thornley

Assistant Athletics Director for Strategic Finance and Planning, Dept. of Athletics

Allison is a "A leader, committed, honorable, selfless, supportive, organized, multitasker, positive. She stands for everything we want in someone leading our department."

2021 Chancellor's Award for Recognizing Excellence Winner



Tondalaya Reece

Program Coordinator, ILLPS

Working in an often thankless job, Tonda utilizes a great attitude, terrific communication, and a clever mindset to succeed at every challenge she faces. Her foresight and work ethic aided her in developing and implementing strategies to keep her unit functioning during the pandemic. Tonda's guidance and selflessness creates beneficial opportunities for students that will aid them in their career pursuits, only furthering her impact at UIS.

2021 Chancellor's Award for Recognizing Excellence Nominees



Sarah Ayers

Program Coordinator, Innovate Springfield

Even working off campus, Sarah has been a valuable asset to the growth of the University and then impression it makes on the Springfield community. Her tireless dedication to supporting students and engaging with faculty has helped catapult the UIS brand. Sarah's positive attitude, passion for the community, and her dynamic presence make her an impactful employee and teammate.



Amanda Baughman

Crime Prevention Officer, Campus Police

For nearly two decades, Amanda has worked behind the scenes to ensure the safety of our students and employees on campus. Although you don't know it, Amanda has her fingerprints all over campus. She is a model police officer, whose demeanor and genuine desire to help speaks to her success and influence on the UIS community.



Jennifer Berry

Program/Student Advisor, Computer Science

For more than 17 years, Jennifer has placed the needs of students front and center. Yet from her perspective, the students are the real inspiration across campus. Often amazed by their perseverance through obstacles, Jennifer doesn't realize that it is her guidance and demeanor that allows for their success. Always smiling, she continues to be a valuable asset to the campus community.



Jillian Briggs

Program/Student Advisor, CPAA

Embracing the core value of personal attention, Jillian strives to engage with students and help them engage in the campus community. Her nominator applauds her approachable style and remarkable knowledge, making Jillian an invaluable resource for students and faculty. If you have had the pleasure of talking to Jillian then you know just how infectious her bright personality is!



Bethany Burbridge

Administrative Aide, AEO

Innovative and compassionate, Bethany truly cares about improving her unit and the UIS community. Her enthusiasm and positivity is contagious; as is evident from even a brief interaction with her. Her nominator praised her value and professionalism during a difficult transition in the Access and Equal Opportunity office.



Ann Gemberling

Business/Administrative Assoc., CMB

Praised for her dedication and transparency, Ann believes strongly in the importance of relationship-building with employees and students. She finds unlimited inspiration from those focusing on student success. When not in the office, Ann serves as a member of various community organizations including the Family Advisory Board for the St. John's Children's Hospital.



Erin Hartnett

Program/Student Advisor, CBM

Described as having a calm confidence and embracing the finest ideals of higher learning, Erin has been an invaluable resource to the students and faculty she interacts with. Always thinking about how she can be a resource for others, she is often found at campus discussions and meetings soaking up everything she can and supporting the liberal-arts mission. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic, Erin is a role model for students and staff across campus.



Carol Marshall

Admissions & Records Officer, Records & Registration

Not afraid of hard work, Carol consistently works long hours, especially since the pandemic began. She is driven by a need to treat everyone she encounters as important. Carol's influence on campus goes beyond her duties in reviewing student applications. It is entrenched in the way she interacts with students. Just ask those that have said she is the reason they came to UIS.



Jason Noyes

IT Manager, ITS

Covid-19 met its' match in Jason. Jason's work ethic and demeanor couldn't be slowed by the pandemic and because of that the campus remained operational as well. He is more than just a pandemic superhero though. He is a mentor to students that are fortunate enough to work with him. Jason is never too busy to help someone and his personality makes him easy to come to for help or just a laugh.



Michele Sapp

Business Manager II, ILLPS

Described as "one of the most effective and helpful colleagues," Michele is eager to troubleshoot and problem-solve. While she is insightful and knowledgeable, it is her integrity and caring personality that make her stand out amongst her peers. While she isn't seeking recognition, her commitment to the University and the leadership she provides is a standard all UIS employees should strive for.



Linda Schneider

Office Administrator, VC Academic Affairs

As her nominator says, Linda handles everything with “a smile and a touch of excellence.” Even over the past year, Linda can be found on campus serving as a dependable and integral member of the UIS community. Her willingness to be a team player and adapt to any challenge are just a small portion of what makes Linda so special to work with. She really does live up to the motto “Leadership Lived.”



Anna Schoenherr

Office Support Specialist, Campus Recreation

Anna is one of those rare individuals that truly practices what is preached, all while remaining humble and selfless. Her importance has been highlighted by her work keeping students engaged during the COVID pandemic. Whether it is taking on additional responsibilities due to vacancies or attending events to support students, she is vital, not only to the operation of multiple units, but to positive student and employee experiences.



Mary Umbarger

Program Assistant, Student Services

From student to campus staple, Mary continues to go above and beyond to make students feel welcomed. Even as someone that thinks about the big picture of the University and the community, Mary never misses the details that make Student Life successful. Referred to as caring and trustworthy, her leadership with student organizations serves an important piece of the campus environment.



Charles Wells

Culinary Worker II, Food Service

Do you know Charles? Well he knows you! With an uncanny ability to remember names, faces, and preferences, Charles exemplifies what it means to be student-focused. His passion and personality fills the air of any room he is in (even virtual ones)! Finding his inspiration from those he serves, he will always find the time to listen and provide a boost to those that interact with him.



Patricia Young

Business/Administrative Assoc., Capital Scholars

“She is the smiling face of our program, even with a mask” says her nominator. Patti is willing to help anyone, is extremely student-centered, and is an advocate for the University. Always seeing projects through to the end, she is actively involved in different initiatives across campus. Her dedication and passion are an inspiration for both students and colleagues.
