



2020 / 2021

**STAFF  
SERVICE  
AWARDS  
AND  
RECOGNITION  
JUNE 11, 2021**



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH  
1250 BELLFLOWER BOULEVARD  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90840  
562/985-4121

June 11, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Congratulations!

It is a special pleasure to celebrate your service to California State University, Long Beach, after such an extraordinary year.

Thanks to the hard work and resilience of our staff, CSULB was able to mount an impressive response to a once-in-a-century global pandemic. You made it possible for us to shift quickly to a primarily remote teaching, working, and learning environment, which helped keep our campus and community safe and our students on the path to graduation.

Today, we are delighted to recognize staff members who reached service milestones in both **2019** and **2020**. Our 132 honorees for 2019 and our 180 honorees for 2020 represent every division and auxiliary on campus, with service ranging from 10 to 50 years. This amounts to a combined 2,445 years of service for our 2019 honorees and 3,230 years of service for our 2020 honorees.

Thank you for your persistence, resolve, flexibility, and unwavering dedication to The Beach—even under the most trying of circumstances. I could not be prouder to be part of such wonderful community.

*Go Beach!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Close Conoley".

Jane Close Conoley, Ph.D.  
President

# 2020/2021 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION VIRTUAL EVENT

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## AGENDA

Friday, June 11, 2021

10:00 a.m.

## SPONSORED BY THE

Office of the President

*and*

Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance

## OPENING REMARKS AND EMCEE

**Nancy Torres**, *Associate Vice President, Human Resources Management*

## WELCOME ADDRESS

**Jane Close Conoley**, *President*

## INTRODUCTION OF STAFF SERVICE AWARDEES

*by*

**Jane Close Conoley**, *President*

**Brian Jersky**, *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

**Scott Apel**, *Vice President, Administration and Finance*

**Miles Nevin**, *Executive Director, Associated Students, Inc.*

**Andy Fee**, *Executive Director, Athletics*

**Robert de Wit**, *General Manager/Chief Executive Officer, 49er Shops, Inc.*

**Min Yao**, *Vice President, Information Technology/Chief Information Officer*

**Brian Nowlin**, *Chief Operating Officer, CSULB Research Foundation*

**Beth Lesen**, *Vice President, Student Affairs*

**Michele Cesca**, *Vice President, University Relations & Development*

## INTRODUCTION OF CSULB SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDEES

*by*

**Jane Close Conoley**, *President*

Outstanding Staff Awards for 2020 and 2021

Employees of the Month for 2019 and 2020

President's Awards for Staff Employees of the Year

Team Achievement Award

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**2021 AWARDEE**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Jennifer Wright



**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Adriana Angel  
Juan Benitez  
Roberta Bogart  
Jason Deutschman  
Staci Freeman  
Ann Kinsey  
Tu Ngo  
Stefanie Pedigo  
Dhushy Sathianathan  
Adam Schwartz

**2021 AWARDEE**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Andrew Buggs  
Jason Harris  
Lyndsay Harrison  
Kimberly Scarborough  
Michelle Seales  
Caroline Sinay Gudiel  
David Smith  
Donna Wiswell

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Rychard Cooper  
Jennifer Dizon  
Karen Kocis  
Efren Miranda  
Mindy Nieto  
Julie Ortiz  
Anthony Probst

**2021 AWARDEE**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Daniel Ames  
Meredith Broadhurst  
Kerilyn Counter  
Kimberly Davis  
Peter Dinh  
Catherine Durham  
Adriane Howze  
Teri Jablonski  
Amelia Ludd  
Maria I. Martinez  
Marvin Mayo  
Cindy Nathan  
Vann Ou  
Clarice Ross  
Irma Sanchez  
Josh Scepanski  
Nupur Shah  
Lupe Swartz  
Karen Warner

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *continued*  
**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEE**

*1999 Year of Hire*

Marcella Barnes  
Ignacio Castor  
Mae DeBruin  
Matt Evans  
Travis Goertz  
Kiry Meng  
Shireen Pavri  
Robert Rhyu  
Colleen Ryan  
Patti Sanford  
Stacia Ticer

**2021 AWARDEE**

*2000 Year of Hire*

Donna Alexander  
Jeniffer Fuentes-Mishica  
Laurie Glumm  
Liz Harris  
LeJon Huff  
Sina Lihang  
Amelia Marquez  
Tracey Mayfield  
Joyce Morfe  
Jonathan Mulvaney  
Liem Nguyen  
Dan Olsen  
Gilbert Parra  
Edward Price  
Cynthia Riley  
Mary Anne Rose  
Nesha Saucier  
John Siegel  
Becky Tubbs  
Kelly Velasco  
Carrie Wolfe  
Pon Yi

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEE**

*1994 Year of Hire*

Robert Foster  
Ray Grace  
Melissa Celine Gunawardena  
Jane McCann  
Tom Owen  
Scot Woodyard

**2021 AWARDEE**

*1995 Year of Hire*

Mary Lorinda Owens  
Stephanie Person  
Matthew Pogue  
Phyllis Simon

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEE**

*1989 Year of Hire*

Terie Bostic  
Diane Graham  
Carol Grutzmacher  
Margaret Karteron  
Mark Moffatt  
Michael Pacciorini  
Bernard Roa  
Diane Stein  
Kim Truesdelle  
Rosario Yeung-Lindquist

**2021 AWARDEE**

*1990 Year of Hire*

Anna Behar-Russell  
JoAnn Billings  
Margaret Costello  
Thomas Douglass  
Martha Gillon  
Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik  
Carmen Maddan  
Michele Mumm  
Victoria Munda  
David Owen

**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEE**

*1984 Year of Hire*

Dave Kelly  
Leah Nieto  
Margaret Williams

**2021 AWARDEE**

*1985 Year of Hire*

Donna Thomas  
Minh Tran

**40 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEE**

*1980 Year of Hire*

Diane Roe

**50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEE**

*1969 Year of Hire*

Roman Kochan  
Patrick Mulleavy

**2020 AWARDEE**  
*1989 Year of Hire*



**Terie Bostic**



**Diane Graham**



**Diane Stein**

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEE**  
*1990 Year of Hire*



**Anna Behar-Russell**



**JoAnn Billings**



**Thomas Douglass**



**Debbie Hildreth  
Pisarcik**



**Carmen Maddan**

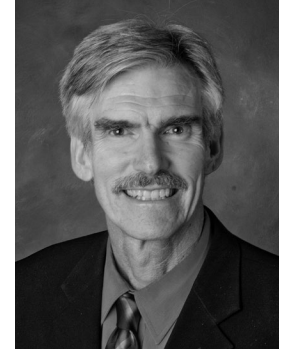


**Victoria Munda**

**2020 AWARDEE**

**Dave Kelly**

ADVANCED MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1984*



Dave started his career at CSULB as a Media Production Specialist in the University Television (UT) department after completing his Master of Arts degree from USC's Cinema and Television program. He was hired initially to help launch the Beach TV cable TV channel.

He noted, "We have kept the Beach TV channel going strong for the past 35 years and now have a companion Beach TV YouTube channel which has been viewed by more than four million people since 2006."

Dave became Director of the Advanced Media Production Center (AMP) - previously called UT - in 2000. Dave oversees AMP's activities which include creating programming for and operating the Beach TV channel on cable TV, YouTube, and Roku; serving the College of Professional and International Education (CPIE) with video production support; and providing the campus with video support services for large events like Convocation and Commencement.

Dave finds working at CSULB rewarding because, "The work we do always involves a lot of variety and new people to meet...I've learned a lot about many things I probably wouldn't have pursued without these opportunities. I've been involved in writing and producing documentaries, hosting talk shows, and facilitating and directing training forums on TV. Plus, the challenge of keeping up with the ever changing and evolving technology trends in video production and program distribution has been fascinating." Several of his written and produced documentaries have aired on PBS stations nationwide, and one was nominated for a Los Angeles Area Emmy Award.

AMP employs student assistants interested in pursuing a career in media-related fields. "I think we've provided a lot of great training...for the students who've worked for us over the decades. We still hear from some of our former students... because we got to know them as people, they like to come back to chat and catch up. It's humbling when you see how much impact you've had on people without realizing it at the time when it's happening."

Dave's most memorable event for him was back in 2002 when Steven Spielberg graduated from the College of the Arts. "Channel 7 News and Channel 11 News came late to the event. They missed the processional and as a result, didn't get the critical footage of Spielberg walking in and being seated amidst the celebratory atmosphere. Knowing about their failure to get the important visuals, I offered to help both Channel 7 and Channel 11 with excellent footage we had taken of all the exciting activities. I brought both of their reporters back to our editing facility and had our staff make copies of our videotape. Both channels ran AMP's footage on the evening news that night."

Dave wishes to thank CPIE "for supporting us and our mission in educational TV." He also shared advice for current and future CSULB employees: "If you like the work and the environment, stick with it! If you embrace the opportunities, those opportunities will benefit you."

**2020 AWARDEE**

**Leah Nieto**

ENROLLMENT SERVICES

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1984*



Leah Nieto began her time at CSULB in 1973, when she enrolled as an undergraduate student and began taking varying classes to explore her interests. While a student, Leah worked as a student assistant in recruitment for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) before being hired in the (then) Admissions and Records (now Enrollment Services) department. As a CSULB student, Leah was captivated by “the feeling of the campus,” which encouraged her to be involved.

She was a member of a Chicano Teatro, a street theater group, which performed at CSU campuses and community centers. She was also a member of La Raza Student Coalition, which was a rename of the MECHA on campus. One of her memories was when she and other members organized a week-long campus celebration, for Cinco de Mayo, called La Semana. Leah graduated with her Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Mexican American studies and a minor in Human Resources Management.

Leah moved around within Enrollment Services before arriving at her current position as the Interim Associate Director of Student Records, Advising, and Academic Scheduling Systems. In her current role, she and a team of two other individuals work behind the scenes ensuring that the services provided to students through MyCSULB are always functioning so students are able to access the system 24/7 with little to no issues. Leah recognizes the level of stress that comes with being a student so she finds meaning in making the system “easy and accessible.”

Serving as California State University Employees Union (CSUEU) chapter President for three years, Leah remembers the “scary and exciting” experience of speaking at convocation on three separate occasions. Prior to this CSUEU was never invited to speak. She also fondly remembers Hard Fact Hill (where the Hall of Science currently sits) and the lunch hour band performances. Leah enjoys walking through the campus and even though renovations over the years have brought lots of new buildings, “we still maintain the greenery, it’s a beautiful campus.”

Since being at the Beach, Leah has formed long-standing relationships with coworkers and other employees that have motivated her to remain at the University for so long, “it’s just like a family!” She finds working on a college campus exciting because “there is always something new to do and it’s always changing.” With no plans to retire any time soon, Leah excitedly says “I love being on the campus!”

Leah wishes to thank her husband, Raul for always encouraging her do what she loves. She reminds current and former employees and students, “don’t take things so seriously, a sense of humor can carry you through life. Listen and not hear, and to always be respectful because as the old saying goes, ‘treat people how you want to be treated.’”

**2020 AWARDEE**

**Margaret Williams**

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1984*



Margaret began her time at CSULB after her sister—who at the time worked for the University—encouraged her to apply. She started in the School of Nursing before moving to the College of Business (COB) as a secretary in the advising department until she moved to her current position as the Executive Assistant to the Dean.

Thinking back to her early days at the University, Margaret remembers the COB being in the FO3 building and she was even on the building committee for the current COB building! Margaret wanted to learn how to drive big trucks, she recalls riding with her brother in his Bob Trail truck hauling dirt to fill in the (then) CSULB 50 Cents parking lot, later called the 70 Cents Parking Lot on 7th street to begin construction on the homes in the (now) University Estates neighborhood. The 50/70 Cents parking lot was for students who had classes on upper campus and for patrons of the VA but it was mostly used by students. CSULB’s innovation over the years has led to her favorite place on campus—The Japanese Garden. Margaret often finds herself relaxing in the garden and enjoys feeding the koi fish because, “It’s so serene and peaceful.”

In Margaret’s current position, she actively manages the Dean’s calendar, the COB building work orders, and onboarding new department faculty. Margaret also plans the COB’s “Dine with the Dean” dinner—an event for members of the COB clubs and organizations to have dinner with the COB Dean, Michael Solt. She enjoys interacting and “just chatting with the students, to get their perspective and collaboration.”

Margaret has developed long-lasting relationships at CSULB, including with her boss, Dean Solt, which has greatly motivated her to remain at the University; but above all, “serving people” is what motivates her to continue during her job to the best of her ability. She has also built these relationships with students, recalling a student who has long graduated from the University but still stops by every now and then to bring her coffee and muffins. Pleasantly surprised, this same student brought his infant son to meet her, as someone who was part of his journey at CSULB.

Dedicating herself to the University’s mission and vision, Margaret tries her best “to help everybody”, and goes above and beyond the duties in her job description in order to put the success of the department and University first. She proudly declares herself a “people person,” a trait which has served her well in her role.

Margaret wishes to thank her husband, “for always encouraging and supporting me” in her dedication to the University. She advises students and current and former employees to “work hard and set goals with dates that you plan to reach the goals by. Have good work ethic and be pleasant. And always remember to give thanks and appreciation to those who warrant it!”

**2021 AWARDEE**

**Donna Thomas**

FILM AND ELECTRONIC ARTS  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
*Thirty-Five Years of Service – 1985*



Donna was encouraged to apply to a position at CSULB by her mother who, at the time, was working as a staff member in the Payroll Department. In 1985, she was hired to work as an Administrative Assistant in Student Health Services. Donna went on to become an Administrative Services Coordinator.

Her career at CSULB has included working in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, the Dance Department, and the Music Department (now the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music). Today, she is an Administrative Support Coordinator in the Film and Electronic Arts (FEA) Department where she handles the day to day operations of the department.

One significant aspect of campus that Donna remembers from when she started her position was the CSULB football team. Other significant events from her date of hire include: President Ronald Reagan was in office, the New York Jets beat Miami Dolphins with a 23 to 7 score, and the 19th annual Country Music Association Awards were held.

Donna says, “The students are what has kept me here at CSULB for so long. Each semester I look forward to the new incoming students. Being a staff member in the FEA Department, I am always so anxious to see what our students can create. They energize me!”

When asked how she impacts the students she serves, she responded, “I’ve been told that I am a motivator.” She also impacts others around her, such as colleagues, as she has been recognized for her work ethic with Staff Applause and Best of the Beach awards.

Donna shared, “My job has taught me patience and how to interact and communicate with a diverse population.”

One of Donna’s hobbies is bowling and, consequently, it has been her favorite activity on campus. She was a member of a bowling team in the campus bowling league, and her team won first place. Her personal accomplishments include her marriage of 27 years, her daughter, and the purchase of a home.

Of the past year, Donna stated, “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would experience a Pandemic (COVID-19).”

**2020 AWARDEE**

**Roman Kochan**

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
*Fifty Years of Service – 1969*

When he enters a room, the occupants cheer, “ROMAN!” His name is known all around campus, and his “swag,” as the students might call it, could be described as the Dean of the University Library—a tall, fit, and calm gentleman with a black leather jacket. Just like its Dean, the University Library stands tall (with five stories and a basement), is fit to accommodate extensive research, and provides a calm atmosphere for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy.

Roman has worked at CSULB since 1969, but his affiliation with the University started two years prior as a Canadian library science student working on a one-year course for the University of British Columbia’s School of Librarianship. On March 1, 1967, he was quoted in the Long Beach Press Telegram. “(The city of) Long Beach’s library-faces the same problem as do Winnipeg and many other cities: the ‘knowledge explosion’. There are so many new and important things being written...that libraries are hard-pressed for space and staff...” The article also states that Roman would like to someday be a librarian. “The work is truly gratifying...You work with education, with books, and with people. What could be better?”

Still smiling and seeking new innovative ways to provide cutting-edge technology through library media, Roman has combated the issue of “knowledge explosion” through Interlibrary Services. Students have two options to obtain materials with use of “BeachReach” to request materials not available at CSULB and “LINK+” for access to books shared among CSULB and other academic and public libraries. The concern for space to store books and journals has been resolved with the robotic book retrieval system.

Roman credits his accomplishments to the support and encouragement he has had from CSULB administrators, faculty, staff, and students. He appreciates the campus community because it understands and values the importance of a good library to enhance the University’s educational mission.

The Long Beach Press Telegram quoted Roman on January 20, 2014 in an article that recognized the University as a “powerhouse” for employment and opportunity. “I love my job. I love being at a place where...every year there’s a new crop of students. I don’t feel old because it’s a fountain of youth. I’m still having so much fun. I haven’t thought about retiring.”



DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Andy Bready  
Deborah Coman  
Andy Hutchcroft  
Michael Kitahara

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Amalia Ballesteros  
Francisco Barron-Mendez  
Diego Hidalgo  
Sara Madera  
Chad Robbins  
Lorenzo Rodriguez

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Juana Aguilar  
Sara Diaz  
Michael Gardner  
Robert Leigh  
Enrique Robles  
Jafra Millner  
Lilly Nguyen  
Victor Ortega  
Luz Ortiz  
Mark Zakhour

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Scott Apelar  
Patrick Banks  
Iliana Garcia  
Chris Newton  
Glo Rosario  
Paula Serrano

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1999 Year of Hire*

Salvador Alcantar  
Kathryn Bawden  
Paul Havrella  
Jose J. Mendez  
Joel Moreno  
Duane Watkins  
Caryn Webb

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2000 Year of Hire*

Gabriel Anderson  
Pedro Betancourt  
Henry Byrd  
Liz Campos  
Ed Garcia  
Veronica Hernandez  
Sergio Jimenez  
David Kersteter  
John Philbrick  
Gustavo Ramirez  
Joe Salvador  
Nathan Truong  
Jesus Valenzuela  
Tara Van De Wetering

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1994 Year of Hire*

Mark Farrell  
Mary Pearson

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1995 Year of Hire*

Hemanthi Gunatilake  
Kevin Nguyen  
Shari Shrewsbury  
Ronald Wilhelm

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1989 Year of Hire*

Bret Frawley  
Gregory Hayes  
Michelle Hermance  
Mario Leon  
Jean Lucero  
Al Vaca

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*

Philip H. Buford  
Kevin Daniels  
Ramon Gomez  
Brian McKinnon  
Fernando Solorzano  
Herb Sutherland  
Ina Tarigan

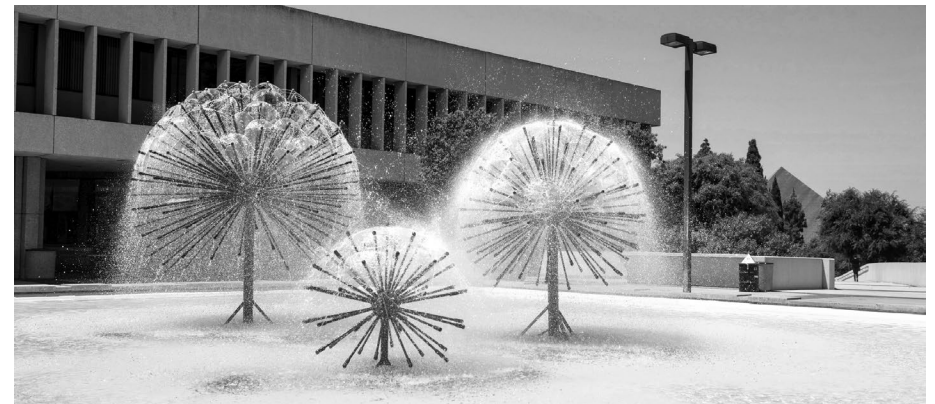
**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1984 Year of Hire*

Lori Pistey

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1985 Year of Hire*

Angela Reid



**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1989 Year of Hire*



**Bret Frawley**



**Al Vaca**

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*



**Philip H. Buford**



**Kevin Daniels**



**Herb Sutherland**

**2020 AWARDEE**

**Lori Pistey**

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1984*



Lori began her journey at CSULB in 1974 when she started pursuing her single subject credential in Social Science Education. During her time as a student, Lori was a member of the university choir and marching band, making herself an active member of the Beach community. In 1984, she began her career at CSULB in Student Financial Services in the accounts receivable department, transitioned to loan collections, until finally arriving at her long-term position in the Disbursements Office. Reflecting on the changes CSULB has undergone, she recalls the differences between then and now and laughingly says, "Everything was manual!"

Lori found her role in the Disbursements Office to be a meaningful one. Lori made extended connections through interfacing with other offices both on and off campus. Within her role, she mainly dealt with loans, allowing her to interact with students on both short and extended study abroad trips. She says, "I liked helping the students with whatever they needed." Lori found her purpose in helping students with their financial matters and students often displayed their appreciation for Lori's dedication. She fondly remembers the time a student brought her a sunflower, "For them to go out of their way to bring me a gift, it was very special." She has also received personalized notes from the many students who she's assisted over the years. "Those are the things that keep me going. When I'm working with a student, I treat them with respect and try to assist them the best way I can and they appreciate that."

During her time at CSULB, Lori has created long-lasting bonds with co-workers through lunch walks, squirrel watching, and attending sports games together. Her favorite places on campus are the Japanese Garden, Library, and Bookstore. Lori endearingly reflects on two individuals who have influenced her during her time at CSULB, Irma Corona-Nieto and Celia Afan. Lori recalls Irma's "I want to do what I can and more" attitude and always appreciated her giving 100% to her job and to the students she served. Celia Afan holds a special place for Lori because she was one of the first people to welcome Lori to campus. Celia and Lori went on to become good friends resulting in Celia organizing Lori's bridal and baby showers, as well as participating in her wedding.

Lori thanks CSULB for giving her the opportunity to build life-long friendships and fond memories to turn to during her recent retirement, "I made so many friends and they're all special in their own way, and I miss that already." She considers CSULB an extension of her own family and says, "I will definitely represent the campus well, because I love CSULB."

While retiring from CSULB is emotional, Lori expresses excitement for what the future holds. She is excited to travel with her husband, spend more time with her family, and continue supporting CSULB athletic programs.

She advises current and future CSULB employees to give their best because, "Being in a university community is more than just sitting at a desk ... it's offering your best at all times."

**2021 AWARDEE**

**Angela Reid**

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE  
*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1985*



Angela's career at CSULB began in 1985 when she left the savings and loan organization she worked for and started a position within Financial Aid. "I grew up in Long Beach, and Long Beach State was a reputable college and there seemed to be many possibilities of growth here."

She learned about the position from "visits to Human Resources to flip through the job posting notebooks that anyone could look through to find positions for which you may be suitable." Once hired, she worked in the Administration Building, which today we know as Brotman Hall.

Angela remembers that the campus's appearance was very different in 1985, "no Pyramid, no parking structures. Fewer students on campus, long lines for admissions and financial aid because enrollment and disbursements were handled in person, and not via online applications."

Utilizing the Fee Waiver program, Angela earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature in 2005. At one point, Angela, her daughter, and Angela's husband at that time were all CSULB students simultaneously. Angela and her daughter participated in the Black Graduation together, walking in their Commencement ceremonies on the same day.

Five years ago, Angela moved from Enrollment Services to Financial Management. "The transition was a bit scary, but I was excited for the opportunity to use my skills, and learn and grow in an area that seemed foreign to me." Today, Angela is a Training Specialist developing training materials such as guides, handouts, and videos for Financial Management procedures. "Never thought I'd be making training videos! It's been an interesting experience."

Angela considers CSULB to be her "work-home." One of her favorite things to do at CSULB is to walk around campus. She advises, "Walk around and through the campus. Especially during the days of in-person Commencement. The campus was energized with graduates, their family, and the joy of their accomplishments. And the campus is usually the most beautiful during the Commencement season."

She offers these words of encouragement for both current and new employees, a quote from Stephen King, "The scariest moment is always just before you start."

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Lisa Harris

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Michael Freeman  
Maureen MacRae

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Iraida Venegas

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1999 Year of Hire*

Mario Ardon  
Donald Guinn  
Arlene Macavinta

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2000 Year of Hire*

Matilde Garcia

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1995 Year of Hire*

Sylvana Cicero



ATHLETICS  
**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Lisa Westerfield

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1995 Year of Hire*

Kim Sowder



49ER SHOPS, INC.  
**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Rosa Henderson  
Rogelio Lara

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Suzel Gonzalez  
Leticia Jimenez  
Guillermina Nuñez

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Jason Eisenmann  
Michael Morris

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Marianne Russo

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1999 Year of Hire*

Clint Campbell  
Liliana Rico-Miranda

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2000 Year of Hire*

Enrique Reynoso  
Chano Rios  
Cesar Rodriguez

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1994 Year of Hire*

Michelle Jung

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1995 Year of Hire*

Julie Thorpe

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1989 Year of Hire*

Antonio Diaz

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*

Cyndi Farrington



**Cyndi Farrington**

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Shenandoah Bennett  
Vicky Cleaveland

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Daphne Gonzalez  
Jared Kennedy  
Ankur Lad

**45 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1975 Year of Hire*

Don Taylor

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Ryan Keller

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Quan Ding  
Sean Hernandez  
John Menzies  
Matt Petermann  
Joe Som  
Tom Tran

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*



**Theresa McCrimmon**

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1999 Year of Hire*

Bryon Jackson  
Eli Shubin  
Ryan Tapp

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2000 Year of Hire*

Janet Foster  
Luc Tran

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*

Theresa McCrimmon

**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1985 Year of Hire*

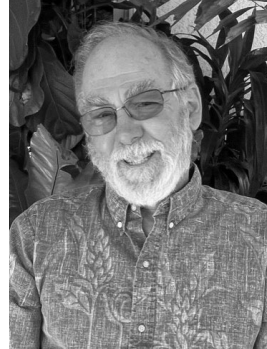
Cheryl Perkins



**2021 AWARDEE**

**Don Taylor**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES  
DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
*Forty-Five Years of Service – 1975*



Don has resided in Long Beach since 1953. He remembers skateboarding down East Campus Drive when his dad, a photographer, came to the campus to take pictures. He attended Long Beach City College and played water polo with Kenny Lindgren in the late 1960s. He wanted to attend CSULB under the scholarship that he received in water polo; however, he joined the Navy to avoid being drafted into the Army. When his Navy assignment ended in 1973, he enrolled in CSULB and worked as a student assistant.

In 1975, he was hired as a Computer Operator in Information Technology Services (ITS), working on the fifth floor of the Engineering building. In 1978, he received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He progressed from working as a Computer Operator, to a Programmer, to his current position as an Operating Systems Analyst. The location of his department and how he performs his job are much different today than they were when he first started. ITS moved from the Engineering building to Brotman Hall when the building first opened for business. His responsibilities require round-the-clock dedication to ensure that applications and operating systems function at peak performance without interruption.

His work supports MyCSULB servers and pulls Enrollment Services interfaces into the PeopleSoft environment. There have been many organizational changes within his department, but it is expected in the ever-changing world of technology. "There's lots of diversity within my job duties to keep me interested." Don has enjoyed learning from all the positions and challenges he has had while working in ITS.

Don likes to stay busy and can't imagine life without a job. He is in great shape and believes part of this has to do with what he does and where he works. He lives only three and a half miles away from the campus and rides his bike to work four times a week. He also walks two to three miles every day during his lunch breaks. Additionally, he uses his hobbies, a 1974 TR6 Triumph (a British sports car) and photography, as a balance for stress.

Don's outlook on life is inspired by his wife, Lyn, of 51 years. "She is always positive," he says. "It helps, too, to work in a good place." He also draws inspiration from his former supervisor, Peggy Douglas, who was "a good motivator." His advice for remaining happy in a job for a long time is to not "sweat the small stuff. When you can't change something, learn to adapt. Don't stress out your colleagues. Listen to them."



## CSULB RESEARCH FOUNDATION 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

### 2020 AWARDEES

2004 Year of Hire

Lana Pinsky

### 2021 AWARDEES

2005 Year of Hire

Stephanie Moreno

Janey Roeder

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

### 2020 AWARDEES

1999 Year of Hire

Bridgette Pruitt

Marie Reed

### 2021 AWARDEES

2000 Year of Hire

Sandy Kirkner

Neria Myers

## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

### 2021 AWARDEES

1985 Year of Hire

Jo Aubel

### 2021 AWARDEE

## Jo Aubel

CSULB RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*Thirty-Five Years of Service – 1985*

Jo Aubel's opportunity to work at CSULB started when she was looking for a job that would be closer to her home. She answered an ad in the Press Telegram newspaper for a position at CSULB. The position provided the challenge she was seeking along with the right pay. Thus, Jo began her career as a Cashier with CSULB Research Foundation (formerly known as the CSULB Foundation).

When Jo started with CSULB, the Foundation offices were located in suite 115 of the East Library. The major change she experienced was when the Foundation built its own office building, which is now 6300 State University Drive. A significant milestone while at CSULB is when Jo received her own Cashier room once the new Foundation building was completed. More recently, Jo's position was merged with CSULB Cashiers and she is now working in Brotman Hall.

Throughout her time at CSULB, a position surrounded by students has been very exciting for Jo. Since the Foundation has had student workers rotate in and out through the years, Jo enjoyed working with students and established great relationships with them. She enjoyed seeing students grow and succeed. To this day, she maintains contact with them and is happy to hear of their successes. Her favorite thing to do on campus is to walk through the beautiful grounds.

Jo has received employee awards from the Foundation and a CSULB Staff Applause. Jo received notoriety when she was featured in the Daily 49er. Jo feels that her contribution to her department is being able to come to work each day and that her greatest impact is with students she works with. Her career's accomplishments also include the lifelong friendships formed which she truly values.

Individuals that motivated and inspired Jo at CSULB through the years were Gladys Crandell and Zara Cross. They both provided her with support when she first started working at the Foundation and she cherishes the great memories she has of them. Other CSULB staff who she considers to be mentors and who have inspired her to be her best are Scott Apel, whom she refers to as "a great guy," Cathy Cahill for her wisdom, and Randy Nielson for his patience.

The greatest inspiration Jo has received is from her family. They are the motivation behind her success at CSULB. She is grateful for her mother, partner, and daughter. They are "what life is about for me."

Jo feels that her career at CSULB put her on a different path in life. Her advice to future CSULB employees is to "give it a try" because it is a great place to work.

Humor is part of Jo's life and is evident by her response when asked what advice she would give to current employees: "Run! Run as fast as you can! Hehehe, just kidding! Just show up to today."



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2009 Year of Hire*

Drew Bowles

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2010 Year of Hire*

Oscar Ballesteros  
Alma Estrada  
Elizabeth Medina  
Corrie O'Toole  
Siggie Palos

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*2004 Year of Hire*

Jan Braun  
Roberto Calderon Rizo  
Julie Decker  
Christine Phu  
Delma Solis

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2005 Year of Hire*

Terri Armstrong  
Ben Brown  
Matt Cabrera  
Flora Cortez  
Maurilio Huerta  
Lynisha McDuel  
Mary Ann Takemoto  
Rosemary Tilmon-Kellum

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1999 Year of Hire*

Angelita Carrillo-Humphreys  
Roshan Jayasinghe

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*2000 Year of Hire*

Maribel McKinzie  
Anna Nazarian

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1994 Year of Hire*

Pamela Jesse  
Cindy Saldana

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1995 Year of Hire*

Huy Nguyen  
Harrelson Notah  
Linda Pham

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1989 Year of Hire*

Natalie Nguyen

**2021 AWARDEES**  
*1990 Year of Hire*

Jane Fujii

**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**  
*1984 Year of Hire*

Renee McDonald





**2020 AWARDEE**

**Renee McDonald**

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1984*



While originally a CSULB student, Renee became a staff member after returning to the Long Beach area with her husband after living abroad for several years. As a staff member, Renee took advantage of the opportunity to use the Fee Waiver Program to complete two degrees: a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with an option in Corrections, and a Master's in Public Policy and Administration.

Her first position at CSULB was in the Career Development Center (CDC), overseeing job listings available to students, and supporting Assistant Director, Wade Hawley. After five years in the CDC, Renee went on to work in Housing and Residential Life as the Off-Campus Housing Coordinator, working with both off campus housing and summer conferences. When housing numbers were down, she worked with the Director on an incentive program called Residential College for students who committed to living in campus housing for two years. She was responsible for their academic advising. When the President's Scholars Program began under President Robert Maxon, Renee oversaw the Scholars' community service. She is now overseeing the Pointe and Summer Conference Services.

"Students impact not only my job, but me personally on a daily basis. I have learned so much from them and am continually touched by their stories, journeys, failures and successes." While she was working in the CDC, one particular student's story stuck with her: A deaf student from Iran - during the Iran-Iraq war - came to study at CSULB even though he was only able to lip-read Persian. Although he faced many adversities, he received his Civil Engineering degree and was hired by a public company just before graduation. Renee continues to share his inspirational story with other students.

Renee shared, "I love the students. I love to see them graduate and pursue their dreams. I have to admit, it is somewhat scary when they return with their own kids."

Renee's family also inspires her. Her husband worked at CSULB and retired after 30 years. Additionally, both of her children went to the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center and "and practically grew up on campus."

She enjoys attending sporting events and supporting Beach Athletics. She also values her time with her colleagues and enjoys having dining hall lunches with them. Renee's immediate supervisor, Elson Brown, motivates her to reach higher for the students' sake and to "be your best self."

Renee's advice to co-workers is, "To remember that we are working with individuals that may or may not know what direction they are going. When they come to you to ask even the simplest question, give them your undivided attention and treat each question with respect as if you might be the last person they go to with that question. If you don't know the answer, tell them you don't know and ask someone. Always follow up with the student."

Renee's advice for future employees is, "Learn everything you can about how the campus works, meet as many people as possible, take advantage of the services and enjoy the ride."

**2020 AWARDEES**

*2009 Year of Hire*

Elise Brown

Howie Fitzgerald

**2021 AWARDEES**

*2010 Year of Hire*

Frederick Camba

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2020 AWARDEES**

*1994 Year of Hire*

Lori Evans

**35 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**2021 AWARDEES**

*1985 Year of Hire*

Janet Romain



**2021 AWARDEE**

**Janet Romain**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT  
*Thirty-Five Years of Service - 1985*



Janet's first experience at CSULB was as a student in the Graphic Design program, which was then Visual Communications. While working on her degree, she was hired as a Student Assistant in the Audio Visual department. After graduation, she transitioned into a full time, permanent staff member in the Audio Visual department where she provided artwork for classroom and presentation instruction use.

Her career included positions as Graphic Artist in Audio Visual, Graphic Designer and then Art Director in University Publications and Public Affairs - presently called Strategic Communications - in the Division of University Relations and Development (URD).

"Over the years when budgets allow, we hire students from our Graphic Design Program, and both sides benefit so much: the students from the real-life work experience and the department from their fresh eyes and ideas that they bring to projects." Janet's work mentors included Mike Cap de Ville, her first supervisor in Audio Visual, and Victoria Waller from URD. She remains friends with both colleagues after their retirements. Additionally, co-worker Tino Siwabessy is "a great sounding board and creative inspiration... as well as a good friend."

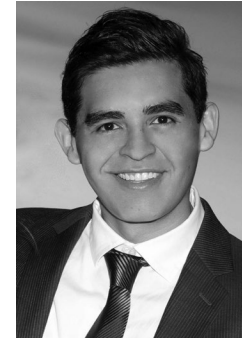
Janet eloquently described several significant experiences during her tenure which impacted her, "When the devastation of 9/11 hit, the shocked and numbed campus community was invited to mourn and support each other within the solace of the Japanese Garden. The garden was filled to capacity with those of us trying to process the unfathomable. During the 2015 attacks in Paris, one of our own, Nohemi Gonzales, an industrial design student, was killed. A vigil in her memory filled the space between the USU to the Central Plant plaza with campus and community members. I had never heard the campus so silent with so many people as candles were passed out and lit. In 2016 Pulse, the gay nightclub in Florida, lost 49 people in a mass shooting spree. Immediately, student groups and faculty and staff organized and showed up on the plaza below the food court and brought us together in a bond of solidarity. All of these responses to tragedy brought me to tears, but also brought a sense of pride and thankfulness for being a part of this university which has served as a gathering place for support, belonging, and compassion during dark times."

Janet attributes her motivation to work so many years on campus to "the ability (up until a year and a half ago!) of being able to step onto our beautiful and invigorating campus every day. The many good relationships I've made within the campus community...it's a family and a network. The sense that I'm working for a greater good, an institution that does so much for so many generations of students. That this university is both a broadening experience and a stepping stone for so many first-generation college-goers such as myself."

Some of Janet's favorite things to do on campus include grabbing a coffee at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf with her colleagues, attending student theater productions, Carpenter Center shows, outdoor summer concerts, Athletics events, and volunteering with flower sales during Commencement.

Janet has received acknowledgement for her work through the Staff Applause and Best of the Beach programs; however, she says, "My favorite accomplishment was meeting my wife, Sally Schliesmayer, 29 years ago, and having had the joy and good fortune of working with her on campus throughout these years and sharing my heart and life together with her."

**2020 STAFF AWARDEE**



**Pedro Castro**  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS ADMINISTRATION,  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

**2021 STAFF AWARDEE**



**John Ciulik**  
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES,  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## 2019 AND 2020 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

JUNE 2019



**Brian Thorson**  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,  
COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

JULY 2019



**Lindsey Sarver**  
STUDENT CENTER FOR  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

AUGUST 2019



**Kristin Gazdik**  
ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER,  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR  
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE



**Christina Ramos**  
CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTER, COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR  
INNOVATION



**Alexandria Pan**  
COUNSELING AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES,  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR  
LEADERSHIP



**Shirley Quan**  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND  
OPERATIONS, DIVISION OF  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2019



**Evelyn Klaus**  
BASIC NEEDS, DIVISION OF  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 2019



**Rafaela Coral**  
HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE,  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2019



**Lindsay Harrison**  
THE LEARNING CENTER -  
SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION,  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR  
STUDENT SUCCESS



**Michelle Giffin**  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,  
COLLEGE OF NATURAL  
SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

DECEMBER 2019



**Marina Crawford**  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
INSTRUCTION, COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING

JANUARY 2020



**Sal Alaniz**  
BEACH BUILDING SERVICES  
- GROUNDS, DIVISION OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

## 2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

### TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (TIE)

**Academic Technology Services**

**Student Health Services**

*(Employees of the Month awards were paused during the rest of 2020. Awards were reinstated in January 2021, and 2021 awardees will be showcased in the 2022 Staff Service Awards and Recognition event)*

# 2020/2021 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION VIRTUAL EVENT

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Janet Romain

Michael Sullivan

### STAFF HUMAN RESOURCES

Anna Felten

Kristin Meadow

Luz Romero

Stacey Schack

### EVENT SERVICES

Shonnick Anderson

### UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

Kristin Bonetati

Owen Ellis

Lily Lopez

### UNIVERSITY PRINT SHOP

Christopher Zibray

Francisco N. Favela

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**LONG BEACH**