It is my pleasure to nominate J. Curt Lutz for recognition as UC San Diego’s Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year.

As the both the brains and brawn behind UC San Diego’s Commute Solutions programs, Curt has helped make a better experience for countless Tritons and for all the San Diegans that share air, water, and roads with them. Curt helped forge and nurture the partnerships with students and Metropolitan Transit System leadership that created the U-Pass program and extended transit pass programs to summer students and Extension International Programs students that would not otherwise have access to reduced rate transit passes. He earned the respect of agency partners at SANDAG, MTS, NCTD, and an alphabet soup of other organizations on which the University relies, through hard work, thoughtful analysis, and humble yet forward-thinking leadership. Of equal importance, Curt continues to engender trust, respect, and goodwill as a valued partner to Campus Planning, Capital Program Management, Student Life, Urban Studies & Planning, UC San Diego Police, the Sustainability Office, and a host of other internal partners working to make it easier for students and community members alike to access the promise of UC San Diego. Curt epitomizes the selection criteria of building relationships and partnerships.

Curt has led extraordinary change and innovated in his work. Curt’s careful stewardship helped the launch of the University’s bikeshare program achieve extraordinary results, roughly a quarter million rides taken and enough miles traveled in the first year to circumnavigate the globe. In that same year, Curt led the implementation of an innovative and highly cost-effective program to encourage commuters to transition to public transit, increasing participation in the ECO Pass transit pass program by more than 25%. Curt oversaw the expansion of the much-beloved ProRide program and improvements to the patient experience through the patient cart service on the La Jolla campus, helped create efficiency through use of Lyft to replace shuttles during low ridership periods, and grew student employment opportunities that helped teach work and life skills while promoting academic success. Curt advances university practices, innovates, and improves the cost-effectiveness of the university’s commute programs daily.

Whether conducting outreach during the working day, leading commuter-focused events in the wee hours of the morning, staffing university events on the weekend, or representing the university at community meetings in the evening, Curt is a tireless ambassador for UC San Diego and champion for walking, biking, transit, and ridesharing. Curt’s service to the university community pays no heed to clocks, calendars, or the finite duties articulated on his job card.

Curt’s leadership, hard work, and success are helping reshape everything from our physical campus to the Triton experience, bringing about significant positive change in support of the University’s mission. In both how he works and what he achieves, Curt’s contribution to our university community is truly exemplary.