

Name: Grace Fuller

Working Title: College Coordinator for Non- Resident Students

Payroll Title: STDT LIFE DEV SPEC 2

The Council of Assistant Deans of Student Affairs in the Undergraduate Colleges is proud to nominate Grace Fuller, College Coordinator for Non-Resident (International & Out of State) Students in the Undergraduate Colleges, for the Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year award. As representatives from each of the Undergraduate Colleges at UC San Diego, we have all had the opportunity to work with Grace and have seen her significant contributions through and for the department and its impacts on the undergraduate experiences of International and Out of State students.

The Outreach department is uniquely structured, comprising two staff members, who coordinate and serve all six Undergraduate Colleges and their unique missions. While her primary assignment is to three colleges, in Grace's four and half years, she has served all six colleges due to staff turnover in three unique periods. Even with staffing gaps, Grace's innovation and passion have led to many improvements and partnerships. These have included the creation of Alternative Spring Break opportunities for international and out of state students, spearheading the effort to include Intercultural Communication training in all student staff trainings within the Undergraduate Colleges. She has also been instrumental in creating opportunities for professional staff development on topics of inclusion, including Mandarin pronunciation workshops and staff and faculty targeted Intercultural Communication Trainings which help our advisors, student conduct officers, and instructors to welcome and work with the wide variety of students represented on campus.

Grace also cultivates a culture of assessment within the Outreach department, implementing regular event evaluations and focus groups with students and staff, identifying gaps in service. Not only does Grace collect this valuable feedback, but she actively reviews responses, reports out data, and applies feedback in regular strategic planning for the department. One program improved by this well-utilized feedback is the Global Ambassador Program (GAP). Originally, GAP matched incoming international students with continuing international students. After analyzing evaluations, Grace realized that incoming students sought to connect with continuing California residents to help them transition to U.S. culture and connect with students from a different background. In the last few years, GAP has recruited a variety of mentors to meet the needs and requests of incoming international students in a meaningful way.

The Outreach department also liaises heavily with the International Students and Programs Office (ISPO) and International House (I-House) to bring dynamic events to campus. Many of these collaborations are geared toward "Globally Engaged Tritons", in our continuing effort to introduce students to a multitude of perspectives and cultures and prepare them as global citizens. Several of these efforts have been in response to current needs, such as the Grocery Shuttle (free transportation for students to utilize accessible food markets, inclusive of their cultural backgrounds), International Symposium, and Coronavirus & You workshops.

Another example demonstrating Grace's collaboration and analysis of data is the Globally Engaged Triton (GET) Co-Curricular Record (CCR) and calendar. Through focus groups, Grace determined students wanted more ways to get involved with the Outreach department and campus. Before the GET CCR, there were only two avenues: attend events sporadically, or obtain one of six intern positions. Through the feedback of her students, Grace worked with her ISPO and I-House partners to create a CCR opportunity that laid out intentional learning opportunities hosted by all three entities. This also led to the creation of the GET calendar, which takes all the events, regardless of which office officially sponsors, and centralizes the information for student access. Grace has received praise from many of her partners regarding her student-centered approach.

Her contributions have also greatly impacted the Undergraduate Colleges. Through her participation in the "Programming @ [Insert College]" meeting she has greatly improved communication, efficiency, and outreach. This meeting, hosted by several Colleges, brings together all of the student and staff event planners within a college to share information and create partnerships. While this excellent idea originated at Warren College, Grace, seeing the value, introduced this idea to Sixth College, where she now serves as Chair of this committee.

As representatives of the Undergraduate Colleges, we enthusiastically submit this nomination in consideration of this award.

Grace Bagunu, Revelle College
Colin Lewis, Marshall College
Carey Wallace, Warren College
Sarah Gallenberg, Roosevelt College
Priscilla Ju, Sixth College