

## Jason Dillon

Recreation Program Leader 2

Student Affairs: Campus Recreation

### Innovation and proactive leadership

I am nominating Jason Dillon, Associate Aquatics Director, as an exemplary staff employee of the year, for 2018-19. Jason personifies the perfect UCSD employee. He maintains a rigorous schedule, has an easygoing personality, gets along with everybody, is an excellent role model for his student staff, and supports an open-door policy.

In his role as a supervisor of over 60 student employees, Jason is always on the lookout for prospective student employees. The San Diego aquatics community is always in need of certified lifeguards. Finding qualified people isn't easy, so Jason decided to put together his own lifeguard training program, where he trains students the way he wants them to work.

His program is free to students interested in being a lifeguard at the pool. His innovatively designed program allows the students to transfer classroom skills directly into real-life situations. As a mentor to these potential employees, he has created a conduit from training the students, to working as a lifeguard at the pool, where they are responsible for the safety of hundreds of swimmers throughout the week.

Here is a quote from one of Jason's headguards, Brooke Miles, "Jason has been an amazing mentor who fosters a positive learning environment at Canyonview. It's rare to find a Supervisor that cares so much for the mental health, enjoyment, and morale of his employees. I immensely appreciate his patience in helping me learn and his genuine investment in my improvement as an employee and as a person. Jason truly wants the best for all of his staff and takes care to make sure the skills we learn while at Canyonview will carry over into our long-term lives."

There is no doubt that Jason is totally dedicated to the University and his student staff. Here is a list of the extra special things he does to enrich the students' lives while at UCSD.

- 1) In order to connect with his employees better, he joined Toastmasters General. This gave him additional tools to help him improve his interpersonal and presentation skills when dealing with his large student staff.
- 2) Oversees the Head Lifeguards during quarterly in-service training sessions for the entire staff.
- 3) Arranges quarterly one-on-one evaluation meetings with current student staff members.
- 4) Supervises a weekly head guard meeting to discuss current schedules and events.
- 5) Schedules exit meetings with graduating seniors to provide valuable feedback for the 'real' world.
- 6) Steps in and substitutes for a student worker, when they don't get up in time for their shift, until they show up.
- 7) During Welcome Week, for the past 2 years, he was the Director of "Meet the Beach". This event brings thousands of in-coming freshmen and transfer students down to Scripps Beach for activities and lunch, hosted by Recreation. It's a monumental undertaking by Jason, with the entire Recreation department working towards its success.
- 8) This year, he started an aquatic adventure for all UCSD students using inflatable animal floats, called "Floatopia".

Jason is also the main campus coordinator for Swim with Mike. This is a nationwide fund-raising event that started at USC. This event raises funds for scholarships that go to special needs college students at U.C. San Diego. Jason still has his regular duties as the Associate Aquatics Director. He takes his job very seriously, and despite the time commitment, continues to volunteer for a host of other responsibilities for Recreation.

\*Chairman of the design committee for the current aquatics center lobby renovation

\*Member of the strategy committee for the future remodel of the Canyonview Aquatics Center building

\*Recreation hiring committee and holiday celebration committee member

\*Recreation Swim Conditioning, CPR & AED Instructor for the Recreation department