

**Timothy Wheeler** (*Principal*)  
Business Systems Analyst 3  
Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer: Business and Financial Services

Tim Wheeler just celebrated 20 years at UC San Diego in a career spanning roles like Program Administrator, Senior Business Data Analyst, and currently Business Technology and Operations Manager for Mail Services. Tim's innovation, talent for building partnerships, and ability to achieve substantial cost savings are exemplified by his leadership with three initiatives. In each example, Tim served beyond his day job, as a UC system-wide team lead, a project manager for the Trade Street flood, and the lead for launching the mail matrix. He volunteered for these assignments while pursuing a Bachelor's degree. As a nominee for Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year, Tim is truly a UC San Diego success story!

When a project team leader from UC Office of the President left 2 months into a project, Tim readily filled the role. The Spend Analytics module team had not yet gathered what was needed for the scripts or demo. Tim quickly pulled the Subject Matter Experts team together to meet the deadline. During the project, two team members left, a new member joined, and data issues surfaced but Tim kept the team on track. As the only lead not in a full-time UC system-wide role Tim's campus responsibilities also faced challenges. A colleague departed, so Tim assumed extra duties to ensure continuity with local data activities and trained a new employee. Anyone else would have retreated from the significant system-wide responsibilities, but not Tim. His continued leadership enabled the launch of the Spend Analytics module, which resulted in over \$380 million in supply chain efficiencies for system-wide strategic sourcing.

Tim was one of the first to ask "How can I help?" following a catastrophic flood at UC San Diego's central receiving facility, Material Support Services (Trade Street) on a Sunday in 2017. Rushing water from a broken line under the warehouse quickly covered 87,000 square feet in up to 6 inches of water, compromising the structural integrity of the building. Tim became project manager for restoration, identifying and disposing damaged property, maintaining operations for critical units, and establishing communication with campus. Tim created a "war room" in which key personnel met each morning to triage damage, create a plan of action and work the plan. He coordinated with Real Estate, Capital Planning, Risk Management and others to return Trade Street to normal operations within 95 days.

In July 2017 Tim became the Business Technology and Operations Manager for Mail Services. Tim's leadership and business skills were tested as he implemented significant change and new technology. His innovation and change management culminated in the successful launch of the mail matrix machine, which automated the sorting process for over 2.7 million letters annually. Major change is never easy and Tim managed to win over a team that had been working together for decades. Tim continues to innovate by developing a robust student employee program and leading mail services through the major transformation that is Logistics 2.0.

Tim's business achievements are extraordinary, but it is his commitment to personal and professional development that inspires. Tim graduated from the 4-year leadership program, STRIVE, immersed himself in the UC Management Skills Assessment Program, attended the WACUBO Business Management Institute, and is on track to complete a Bachelor's degree in June. His leadership style has had lasting, positive impacts. Former student employee Tristan Ma sums it up like this: "In my two jobs since leaving UCSD, working in both consulting and sales, the self-learning and self-motivating work style that Tim nurtured in me has helped me advance faster than my peers who are used to a more hand-holding style of management. Guided independence is how I would sum up Tim's leadership style and I am always grateful that I was able to learn and apply this to my professional philosophy so early in my career."

Tim's internal motivation to better himself and the organization he serves, paired with his ability to transpose that onto others, is truly inspiring. His dedication to professional and personal development prepared him for a bright future, sure to be filled with more great successes for Tim and for UC San Diego.