Lindsay Romasanta
Academic Achievement Counselor 4
Student Affairs: Student Success Programs

It is with great enthusiasm that we submit the nomination for EOY Award consideration for Dr. Lindsay Romasanta, Director of Student Success Programs. During her time at UC San Diego, Dr. Romasanta has been a vanguard; advancing UC San Diego's Strategic Plan through her work with Student Success Programs, specifically the Student Success Coaching Program (SSCP). For the purpose of this nomination, we would like to focus on the nomination criteria areas:

Innovation and Proactive Leadership.
      Under Dr. Romasanta's leadership, SSCP is staffed by 5 success coaches, 1 program specialist, and 16 peer coaches, and serves over 800 first-generation undergraduates. During the 2016/2017 academic year, SSCP received an overall satisfaction score of 4.47, the highest for any program across campus (UC San Diego Student Satisfaction Survey, 2017). We attribute the success of SSCP to Dr. Romasanta's vision to create a student affairs program that utilizes a strengths based model founded on a collaborative, holistic, and validating environment for first-generation students.
      In creating SSCP, Dr. Romasanta has demonstrated inclusive and innovative leadership. Dr. Romasanta values her team's feedback (and uses it to continuously shape and develop SSCP) and builds trust through her openness and transparency. She places great value on the growth of her professional and student staff, believing in the unique strengths each individual brings to the team. Success coaches are strongly encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities such as on-campus trainings and workshops, as well as attending national conferences. Dr. Romasanta has also secured funds for success coaches to receive Clifton Strengths Finder Training Certification. This training has led to Student Affairs wide programming, instituted by VCSA Juan Gonzalez, to educate staff on working from a "Strengths" perspective.
      Additionally, UCSD is the first UC institution to have NASPA certified peer coaches, another innovative practice headed by Dr. Romasanta. Dr. Romasanta has led other innovative practices such as the implementation of new technology, including an online Student Success Plan, Advisor Trac (used to track student appointments and generate reports), and Signal Vine (used to communicate with students via text message). Dr. Romasanta's most recent technological implement was an updated SSCP website containing SSCP team bios and a live calendar of events. Dr. Romasanta is not afraid to utilize technology and recognizes its power to positively impact SSCP.

Build Relationships and Partnerships.
      To connect SSCP students to all the unique opportunities at UCSD, Dr. Romasanta continuously works to foster connections with the institution's colleges and campus partners. SSCP staff are embedded within the six colleges and work closely with the college Deans of Advising and Student affairs, regularly attending staff meetings and events at the colleges. SSCP also has close connections to Career Services, CAPS, Basic Needs Hub, Academic Enrichment Program, The Teaching + Learning Commons, Graduate Division STARS Programs, and SPACES, among other campus partners. These partners are just a few that Dr. Romasanta considers our "success coaching community".
      As part of Student Retention and Success (SRS), Dr. Romasanta has supported and partnered with the SRS team in several capacities. She has led the hiring committee for the Director and Assistant Director at OASIS, and has collaborated with OASIS on developing 2Connect, a second year program that serves all SRS students.

Extraordinary Service to the Community
      Dr. Romasanta has provided exceptional service to UCSD and the San Diego community. She has organized the UCSD First Generation initiative, working with faculty and staff to provide programming to support retention and success for the UCSD community; especially first-generation population. Events for the Triton First Initiative have received an overwhelming amount of support with over 240 attendees for the Fall 2017 event and over 140 attendees for the Winter 2018 event. Dr. Romasanta is also assisting in spearheading the first UC systemwide First-Generation conference at UCSD. During February 2018, after serving as a panelist at UC Irvine, Dr. Romasanta was approached by Jim Wolfston (CEO of CollegeNet), to bring the first ever Social Mobility Conference to UCSD in February 2019. Dr. Romasanta's work through SSCP has been recognized by various universities (National University, Point Loma Nazarene, University of San Diego, and UC Irvine) and she has been asked for consultation on how to set-up coaching programs locally.