



PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Monday, April 25, 2022

Welcome to Texas A&M University's 35th annual presentation of the President's Meritorious Service Awards. Today, we recognize staff members for demonstrating their commitment to the Aggie core values of respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity and selfless service.

Thank you for joining us to honor and congratulate these remarkable employees for their meritorious service.

Welcome and Introductions

Damon Slaydon '92
Vice President, Division of Human Resources
& Organizational Effectiveness

University Staff Council Message

Cynthia Billington '87
Chair, University Staff Council

Address to Honorees and Guests

M. Katherine Banks
President,
Texas A&M University

Awards Presentation

M. Katherine Banks
& Scot Walker '90
Vice President of Communications,
The Association of Former Students

Closing Remarks

Damon Slaydon '92

Following the ceremony please stay for a reception to celebrate with today's recipients!



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT M. KATHERINE BANKS

Congratulations to the 2022 President's Meritorious Service Award recipients. This award was established to recognize staff who exhibit the highest level of distinction at Texas A&M University. Now in its 35th year, recipients of this prestigious award are selected by an committee of their peers for their commendable service and embodiment of the Aggie core values.

This year we are recognizing 25 individuals, two supervisors and two outstanding work teams for their contribution to our culture of excellence. These recipients express the true spirit of the Aggie community.

I would also like to thank the Association of Former Students for supporting these awards.

Once again, congratulations to our President's Meritorious Service Award Recipients. I commend you for your dedication and thank you for your important role in the success of our great university.



These awards are funded by The Association of Former Students, sponsored by the Office of the President and coordinated by the Division of Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness.





AGATHA WAGNER ALONSO '92

*Executive Assistant I
Dean's Office, College of Pharmacy
25 years of service*

Agatha is an Executive Assistant I in the Dean's Office in the College of Pharmacy. She supports the Vice Dean with administrative functions and management of the office. She is quick to volunteer to help other departments and teams within the college whenever the need arises. She can be depended upon to anticipate the needs of those she assists and is always approachable with a can-do attitude.



JAMIE M. ARREXI

*Communications Coordinator
Memorial Student Center
11 years of service*

Jamie is a Communications Coordinator with the Memorial Student Center. He develops strategic communication plans and leads the comms area in the development and production of digital and print marketing materials. While Jamie is exceptional in his role, it is his work as mentor, friend, and ally that has impressed many colleagues and supervisors. He shows up for more than just a job - he shows up for people.



HEATHER FOUNTAIN '04

*Associate Director
Scholarships and Financial Aid
20 years of service*

Heather serves as an Associate Director in Scholarships and Financial Aid. She leads the processing team for Financial Aid Operations. Heather is a strategic thinker and promotes innovation and creativity. She is self-aware and prioritizes projects for her team. There are hundreds of moving parts in processing financial aid for 50,000-plus students, as 72% of Texas A&M students are on financial assistance. Heather makes it all look easy.



TRICIA GIVILANCZ-CISNEROS, M.S. '12

Assistant Director

Rio Grande Valley Prospective Student Center

17 years of service

Tricia is the Assistant Director of Admissions at the Rio Grande Valley Prospective Student Center. Tricia embodies the Aggie Core values. She goes above and beyond for students and families and welcomes them to our Aggie family. Tricia understands that being an Aggie is incredibly special and comes with great responsibility. She constantly motivates her team to go above and beyond and assures them that they are all future leaders.



GRANT A. HAWKINS '98

Creative Manager

Bush School of Government and Public Service

2.5 years of service

As Creative Manager in the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Grant is one of the hardest working members of the staff - arriving early, staying late, and contributing to projects within and out of the boundaries of his job description. Grant is deeply involved in communities on and off campus, working hard while rarely taking credit. After just two years, Grant has become a known and respected leader.



YVETTE HESTER, PH.D.

*Associate Director
Academic Success Center
26 years of service*

Yvette serves as an Associate Director for the Academic Success Center assessing operations of the Texas Success Initiative Program. She is committed to the success of every student who is admitted to Texas A&M. Yvette supports her direct reports by creating a collaborative work climate and environment, always being available to answer questions, and bringing fresh new approaches to programs. She is a hands-on leader who gives generously of her time.



ELIZABETH HINTON

Veterinary Technician IV

Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital

24.5 years of service

Elizabeth is a Veterinary Technician IV with the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. She cultivates a culture where ideas and opinions are shared and given the respectful consideration they deserve. She is often sought out to provide guidance, oversight, or comfort. Elizabeth will drop anything she is working on if her team is in need. She puts the needs of the patients, the hospital, and her teams above all else.



GLEN HARLEY HUFF

*Master Utilities Maintenance Technician
Utilities and Energy Services
10 years of service*

Glen serves as a Master Utilities Maintenance Technician with Utilities and Energy Services. Glen works in a cooperative and collaborative manner - utilizing the strengths of other personnel. He is the go-to-guy when it comes to procedure questions and proper use of tools and equipment. Glen consistently recommends new methods to conduct tasks safely and effectively, ensuring the highest quality of service to Texas A&M.



DEBORAH A. JACKSON '76

*Senior Career Services Coordinator
Career Center
25 years of service*

Deborah is a Senior Career Services Coordinator in the Career Center. She demonstrates loyalty through her 23+ years of service to the Career Center. She takes time with the recent graduates she advises to offer them proper career guidance and connect them with the true power of the Aggie Network. Deborah has a great sense of pride in being an Aggie and helping former students with their career needs.



EDWARD JANOUSEK

*Facilities Coordinator III
Division of Research
12 years of service*

Ed is a Facilities Coordinator III for the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building. When a problem arises that requires attention, Ed is first to arrive, coordinating the repair and working with the affected employees. He has a knack for diffusing difficult situations and making sure everyone walks away feeling heard and respected. Ed says that when you love your job as much as he does, it doesn't feel like work, which captures his relentlessly positive attitude.



MELISSA KUHLMANN '14, M.S.

*Administrative Coordinator II
Department of Educational Administration and
Human Resource Development
3.5 years of service*

Melissa serves as an Administrative Coordinator II in the Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development. She takes initiative to assess what is needed and then does the research to make it happen. Melissa constantly gives of herself for the greater good, without regard to personal gain or recognition. She is a loyal servant leader dedicated to Texas A&M University, the college, and the Pre-K-12 Program.



DENNIS W. LACAZE '84

Program Manager

Office of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine

5 years of service

Dennis is a Program Manager in the College of Medicine's Office of Graduate Studies. He models a leadership style focused on the growth and well-being of those around him. He listens and strives to provide the tools and training for others to be their best. Dennis is a proud Aggie who works to ensure that the professional and graduate students, as well as prospective students, feel a part of the larger Aggie community



D. TRAVIS MCCARTNEY

*Administrative Coordinator I
Department of Chemistry
7 years of service*

Travis is an Administrative Coordinator I in the Department of Chemistry. He interacts with many staff, faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students daily. The degree of respect that he uses with each of the groups that he serves is evident in the way he patiently teaches or helps people. Travis's selfless service is beneficial to his colleagues and the students, but more importantly is a true reflection of his loyalty to Texas A&M.



KRISTINE MORLEY

Program Director

Business Honors Program, Mays Business School

21 years of service

Kris is Program Director of the Business Honors Program at the Mays Business School. She not only learns the name of every student in the program, but she also knows their story. Kris notices details and takes ownership of her responsibilities. She creates and models a culture of service and commitment, and it has affected the people she works for and the students she assists in a way that inspires everyone.



LINDA NEWMAN

*Executive Assistant II
Division of Operations
24 years of service*

Linda serves as an Executive Assistant II in the Division of Operations. There is always a high level of trust when working with Linda. She strives for preciseness and a “no mess ups” personal standard with the different entities she works with — primarily the Board of Regents, Faculty Senate, and Texas A&M System offices. The excellence of Linda’s work results in great working relationships with these offices and staff.



CHANDLER NICHOLS

*Library Specialist III
Medical Sciences Library
6 years of service*

Chandler is a Library Specialist III in the Medical Sciences Library. Chandler handles the day-to-day process of “Get It For Me” requests, ensuring that faculty and students have access to materials needed for their research or assignments. Her work is of great quality and attention to detail. Chandler has taken the lead on several projects and exceeded expectations by showing her capability to manage and coordinate difficult and complex tasks.



KELLY PAMPELL

Business Administrator III

Adam C. Sinn '00 Department of Finance

23.5 years of service

Kelly is a Business Administrator III for the Department of Finance. She has had a tremendous impact through inventing and helping improve many processes. She is smart, thinks through things, and is on top of everything she does. Kelly works hard to establish staff goals, provide coaching, and communicate expectations. Even during the most challenging times, Kelly never gives up on her employees and believes all can benefit from guidance.



SHAUNA RAMOS

Business Administrator I

Business Office, College of Architecture

22 years of service

Shauna is a Business Administrator I in the College of Architecture's Business Office. Her service and loyalty simply cannot be questioned. She is typically one of the first in the office each morning and the last to leave. She routinely works until the job is done, and then some. Shauna is hard-working, dedicated, and always has the best interest of the office, college, and university in mind when making business decisions.



JENNIFER RHINESMITH-CARRANZA

Senior Academic Advisor

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

12 years of service

Jennifer is a Senior Academic Advisor with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is an extraordinary advocate for students and always goes the extra mile to get to know students personally, understand their capacities and interests, and then work tirelessly to guide them through the curriculum with academic counseling and life advice. She remains deeply invested in all of her students' lives and constantly challenges them to broaden and grow.



PATRICIA C. ROBINSON '08

Program Coordinator II

Office of Student Affairs, School of Public Health

16 years of service

Patty serves as a Program Coordinator II in the Office of Student Affairs in the School of Public Health. She shows incredible care and attention in every prospective student interaction, ensuring that she shares the unique attributes of this university. Patty accomplishes her job with excellence in her work ethic and attention to detail. As the number of applicants continues to increase, she continues to rise to the challenge.



SAMANTHA SHIELDS

*Instructional Consultant
Center for Teaching Excellence
11.5 years of service*

Sam serves as an Instructional Consultant for the Center for Teaching Excellence. She assists faculty and graduate students with strategies to promote excellence in teaching and enhance the level of learning for each student. Sam's willingness to help translates directly to improving inclusivity and student success. Her work is truly an example of how one person's leadership and selfless service can have a campus-wide impact.



SUSAN TATUM

*Assistant Athletic Director
Athletics Compliance Office
18 years of service*

Susan is an Assistant Athletic Director in the Athletics Compliance Office. She goes above and beyond to assist staff, coaches, and student-athletes on all matters dealing with rules and ethics, and that includes being available to provide answers on nights, weekends, and holidays. Every aspect of her job requires her to work with the highest level of integrity and in doing that, she exudes excellence, loyalty, and selfless service.



LATHA VASUDEVAN, PH.D.

*Assistant Director and Radiological Safety Officer
Environmental Health and Safety
32 years of service*

Latha serves as Assistant Director and Radiological Safety Officer with Environmental Health and Safety. She is responsible for guidance of the university's radiological safety program on main campus and various remote sites. Latha demonstrates excellence in her job performance, in her relationship with her staff members, in the service she provides to researchers, and in the work she does on behalf of her profession as a volunteer.



LINDA WINDLE, PH.D.

*Associate Program Director
Undergraduate Advising, Mays Business School
36 years of service*

Linda serves as the Associate Program Director of Undergraduate Advising in the Mays Business School. She ensures precision in all that she does while maintaining a positive attitude and professional demeanor. Linda is a go-to resource for many, gladly sharing best practices and innovative solutions with colleagues and peers. When curriculum issues or student concerns arise, she handles these with a smile and service-oriented approach.



MANDY ZACHGO, LVT

Veterinary Technician IV

Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology

3 years of service

Mandy is a Veterinary Technician IV with the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology. She is an integral part of undergraduate and professional courses. Successes in classes and labs are a direct result of her preparation and energy. Mandy consistently displays all of those personal qualities most highly prized in a professional – honesty, integrity, intelligence, genuine concern for others, self-reliance, high personal standards and maturity of judgment.



SUPERVISOR AWARDS



KELLY ESSLER '00

*Director of Advising
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
16 years of service*

Kelly is the Director of Academic Advising in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She leads, motivates, and cares for a team of advisors in a newly centralized environment. She promotes an open-door customer service atmosphere, in which staff can come to her with anything. Beyond supporting her staff, Kelly also demonstrates selfless service and loyalty to our student body. She does all of this with a positive attitude that is contagious to those around her.



SHANNON D. WALTON, PH.D.

Assistant Dean

Graduate and Professional School

20.5 years of service

Shannon is an Assistant Dean in the Graduate and Professional School, serving as the Director of Recruiting, Professional Development, and Student Success. She is admired by her staff, peers, and co-workers, many of whom are inspired to do their best by the example she sets and the expectations she places on them. Shannon leads the support efforts for thousands of students, including hundreds of underrepresented minority students, to strengthen their success in graduate school and beyond.



TEAM AWARDS



THE CENTER ON DISABILITY & DEVELOPMENT TEAM: COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

This team is made up of nine individuals, who have a combined total of over 75 years of service to A&M. Together, the projects and strategies of the Center advance policies and practices which improve the health, education, and social and economic well-being of people with developmental and other disabilities, as well as their families and communities, in support of independence, productivity, and satisfying quality of life. Beyond just providing respect for individuals with disabilities, this team also has a high regard and respect for each other.

Tanya Elise Baker, Communications Specialist II, 15.5 years of service

Latisha Crockett-Tennell, Program Coordinator I, 1.5 years of service

Minnette A. Day, Program Coordinator II, 21 years of service

Jessica Dees, Program Manager, 7 years of service

Tracy Glass '14, Program Coordinator II, 7 years of service

Meagan Orsag, Ph.D., Associate Research Scientist, 7 years of service

Vanessa Richard, Program Coordinator II, 3 years of service

Eric Roberts, Ph.D., Associate Research Scientist, 7 years of service

Jacqueline S. Turner, Ph.D., Research Specialist II, 10 years of service



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEAM: THE CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The Center for Teaching Excellence's English Language Proficiency Program is a linguistic resource provided to Texas A&M's international instructors and prospective instructors who wish to improve their spoken English skills. Taking a multi-faceted approach to language proficiency, programs designed by ELP staff have the reputation of being comprehensive and effective. Participants love the feelings of "family" and "care" they perceive while engaging in the program. The English Language Proficiency Team consists of two full-time staff and several student employees.

Brandon Cooper, Ph.D., Assistant Director, 8 years of service

GiNESSa Lawson Payne, Instructional Consultant, 10 years of service



*These awards are funded by The Association of Former Students,
sponsored by the Office of the President and
coordinated by the
Division of Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness.*