



EXEMPLARY STUDENT

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

2025

AUDREYS



ISABELLA SOTO

I am excited to nominate Isabella Soto for the exemplary student recognition. Isabella provides great customer service skills, always brightening everyone's day with her wonderful sense of humor. She listens attentively and is always ready to lend a hand, making sure our café stays clean and inviting. Isabella takes great pride in whipping up delicious drinks all day long and jumps right in to help with stocking whenever needed, never complaining at all. Plus, her enthusiasm for learning and improving her latte and blended drink skills is inspiring. Isabella truly embodies the spirit of a dedicated and friendly student, making her a wonderful candidate for this recognition.

AUDREYS



DANIELLE PADILLA

I'm excited to nominate Danielle Padilla as an Exemplary Student Employee because she truly shines at Audrey's Café. Danielle is such a hard worker with a genuine eagerness to learn new things. She's always up for helping out, whether it's deep cleaning the space or ensuring everything is in order when we close. What's really impressive is how she takes the initiative to lend a hand without being asked. Her fantastic customer service brings a smile to our guests' faces and makes their experience memorable. Plus, she's flexible and ready to jump into any role, whether as a barista, cashier, or stocker. Danielle's positive attitude and dedication make her an incredible part of our team, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

BUSINESS & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE & OUTBOUND SHIPPING



LEWIS AGUILAR

Lewis has been a cornerstone of Logistics, excelling across roles from student mail assistant to marketing lead. His work ethic rivals full-time staff, producing social media campaigns, quarterly newsletters, Surplus Sales ads, professional staff headshots, and running our LinkedIn. A true ambassador, Lewis consistently drives Logistics Marketing projects forward with creativity, leadership, and initiative.

BUSINESS & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE & OUTBOUND SHIPPING



JUNGHWAN (WILL) KIM

Will transitioned into a newly created role from a Logistics Assistant to Data Analyst and has far exceeded our expectations! Will has built critical BI dashboards for Logistics and our partners, including the All Member Matrix, Surplus KPI tracking, and Invoice Recharging. Will supports his fellow students through case management and volunteering for shifts to support Student Mail during their peak times. His initiative, broad knowledge across IPPS teams, and dedication to student support make him an invaluable and inspiring team member.

CAFÉ VENTANAS



JESSE GONZALEZ

Jesse has become a strong SSC and he has shown a new level energy. He has shown new students their role at Ventanas through trainings. He has made a student information board for all students to show who their leads are and also made videos for new drinks to show everyone how coffee drinks are made. He is a strong SSC and has come a long way in a short time.

CAFÉ VENTANAS



FIALA KLIMOWSKI

Fiala is a hardworking and dependable student leader who plays a key role in the daily operations at Ventanas. Each morning, she helps to keep the team organized and on track.

In addition to these tasks, Fiala often assists the chefs in the kitchen, sometimes even taking on cooking responsibilities herself. Her willingness to step in wherever needed makes her a valuable asset to the entire operation.

CAMPUS MAIL



NATHAN ELLSWORTH

Nathan consistently goes above and beyond, providing outstanding customer service and proactively supporting not only his department, but Student Mail as well. His dedication, reliability, and positive attitude makes him an invaluable team member and a model of excellence in student employment.

CAMPUS MAIL



DANA SORENSON

Dana demonstrates exceptional initiative by helping pilot integrated routes, supporting team collaboration, and consistently bringing a positive attitude to the workplace. Her meticulous, caring, and hard-working ethic does not go unnoticed! Her kindness and dedication significantly enhance efficiency and morale for Campus Mail.

CANYON VISTA



JEREMY CLEMONS

Since joining our team Jeremy has consistently gone beyond his assigned responsibilities. He exhibits a strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and a positive attitude that enhances our workplace. One notable contribution made is he has become the person the students trust whenever they have any concerns whether it be school related or something more personal, Jeremy is a very approachable person which I believe is his strong point.

CANYON VISTA



BRI WELCH

As a student lead, Bri consistently goes above her responsibilities. One of the most outstanding qualities of Bri is her initiative, she has taken the lead when on shift ensuring all our platforms are running well and efficiently, she understands to pass the shift over she must have everything up to standards to have a smooth transition. Bri can see beyond what's in front of her and work outside her comfort zone.

CATERING



MELANDA ABOUEID

Melanda has truly set the standard for what it means to be an exemplary student employee. As our only Student Success Coach (SSC) for over six months, she consistently went above and beyond to ensure students received the support they needed—often juggling multiple responsibilities with grace and professionalism. Her passion for the role was evident in everything she did; she approached each task with enthusiasm, compassion, and a relentless drive to make a difference.

Melanda's dedication was unmatched. She continuously sought out new learning opportunities, always eager to expand her knowledge and improve herself. Her willingness to help—whether it meant staying late, volunteering for extra projects, or offering a listening ear—made her an irreplaceable part of the team. Her exceptional performance, strong leadership qualities, and deep commitment to student success makes her more than deserving of the title Principal Exemplary Student Employee.

CATERING

YAJAIRA MARTINEZ



I have had the privilege of knowing Yajaira for the past year, during which I have had the opportunity to witness her remarkable leadership qualities, work ethic, outstanding discipline and attitude, and unwavering dedication to her studies and work responsibilities.

Yajaira is an exceptional student worker who consistently excels at any task delegated. Other students seek her out for advice and direction, and she happily shows them the correct manner to handle tasks. Her production levels are consistent and high, and her work quality is extremely dependable. Beyond her work achievements, Yajaira possesses a rare combination of intellectual curiosity, determination, and resilience that sets her apart from her peers.

During her time at Saltaire, Yajaira has actively contributed to our team through her involvement in various extracurricular activities and volunteer initiatives. She demonstrates exceptional leadership skills as Student Success Coordinator, where she has proven her ability to inspire and motivate her peers towards shared goals.

In addition to her academic and extracurricular achievements, Yajaira is a person of impeccable character. She approaches challenges with a positive attitude, demonstrates integrity in all her endeavors, and consistently treats others with kindness and respect. I am confident that Yajaira Martinez is exceptionally deserving of the Exemplary Student Employee award. Her academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to making a positive impact on the Saltaire team and the community make her an outstanding candidate.

CLUB MED



KARL JOHNSON

Karl Johnson is an exemplary student. He embodies what it means to be an outstanding student employee. Since joining the team at Club Med. Karl's always on time and never missed a shift. He has a strong yet quiet work ethic, and volunteers to take on the difficult tasks.

As a silent leader, he leads by example—setting a positive tone for his peers through his dedication and unwavering reliability. His ability to provide elevated service with a smile, along with his willingness to step in whenever needed, further showcases his professionalism and team spirit. Karl's perfect attendance and dependable presence at every shift speak volumes about his integrity and work ethic.

CLUB MED

KIYA LOPEZ



Kiya is a shining example of what an exemplary student is. Her hard work, day in and day out, plays a key role in the ongoing success of Club Med. During the busiest rushes, she remains composed and efficient driven by her focus and genuine desire to provide the best possible experience for every customer.

Always proactive, Kiya is quick to ask, “What’s next?” when she finishes a task, and she regularly offers to support other stations whenever she has the opportunity. Her positive attitude is infectious—she greets both customers and coworkers with a warm smile and often goes the extra mile by making thoughtful suggestions to regulars and new guests alike.

Though she does not hold a lead position, Kiya consistently demonstrates leadership through her initiative, teamwork, and commitment to Customer Service.

CONFERENCES



DANIA SANTIAGO

Dania is an exemplary student employee whose professionalism and initiative greatly improved our summer conference preparations. Her attention to detail and ability to streamline administrative tasks enhanced efficiency, while her positive attitude and teamwork made her a valued asset to Hospitality and Conference Services.

CONFERENCES



JENNYFER MENDEZ

Jennyfer consistently delivers outstanding customer service, making every guest feel welcome and valued. Her clear, detailed communication supports smooth operations. We're thrilled to have Jennyfer returning for another summer conference season—her professionalism, reliability, and warmth make her an essential part of our team.

DINING ENGAGEMENT



SUNNY DOUMERC

Over the past four years, from Catering to Dining Engagement, your hard work, caring demeanor, and unwavering positive attitude have made you an exemplary student. Your contributions resonate deeply with those around you and inspire everyone to strive for greatness.

DINING ENGAGEMENT



GISELLE NAREZ RODRIGUEZ

Giselle joined the Engagement team this year and has adapted to her new role with ease. She quickly became a valuable member of the team. Triton Day showcased how much she has learned in her position, and she truly stepped up to the occasion.

DINING SALES



JOSH LA

Josh consistently demonstrates exceptional maturity and professionalism when handling workplace challenges. He readily accepts extra assignments beyond his regular duties, showcasing strong initiative and reliability. Furthermore, Josh excels in customer service, always going above and beyond to thoroughly assist with any problem or concern. His dedication and proactive approach make him an outstanding positive example for all his student employee peers.

DISBURSEMENTS & TRAVEL



JERALYN KARLA MARTINEZ

Jeralyn brings a positive and optimistic attitude to work every day that inspires those around her. Her work-ethic (she's worked 5 days a week since her start last fall) and eagerness to tackle new challenges and projects makes her an incredibly valuable member of, not just the Card Products Team, but IPPS and RRSS as a whole.

Jeralyn's customer-facing role as a Card Program Administrator means she also makes a positive impact on our entire campus community. We are extremely thankful to have someone as talented, friendly, and eager to help as Jeralyn Martinez on our team!!

DISBURSEMENTS & TRAVEL

ANGELA XU

Angela is key player within Disbursements & Travel who is always willing to take on extra tasks to assist other members within the team all while being able to complete her daily tasks on time.

ECEC



AUDREY LOPEZ

Audrey is a valuable asset to our ECEC administration. She consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, takes initiative, and ensures her tasks are completed on time. Audrey also goes above and beyond to support her peers and contribute to a smooth-running office.

ECEC



EMELY HERRERA CORTEZ

Emely is a dedicated student aide who is flexible and ready for any challenge. She connects well with all age groups at ECEC and has built strong relationships with colleagues, families, and students through her positive attitude and genuine care.

FACULTY CLUB



TIERNAN RIGGS

Tiernan is a highly valued team member and student coordinator who consistently supports the manager in strengthening team dynamics and driving excellence in guest service.

FACULTY CLUB



ARNOLD PINEDA

Arnold is an outstanding team worker, consistently performing exceptionally well at the station. He is dependable with clocking in and out on time and is an excellent team player. Arnold is always willing to help out, especially when overtime is needed.

FOODWORX



ANDRES CHAVEZ

A big thank you to Andres for always bringing such a positive attitude, a friendly smile, and great energy to every shift. He's incredibly reliable, maintains excellent attendance, and consistently demonstrates strong teamwork. Andres is always on top of things, making sure the retail side is well-stocked and running efficiently during his shifts. Your commitment and hustle do not go unnoticed — we truly appreciate everything you do.

FOODWORX



ASHLEY ZHOU

I would like to recognize Ashey for her excellent work ethic, outstanding teamwork, and dependable attendance. She consistently shows up ready to contribute and support her team, and her positive attitude makes a real difference. Thank you for being such a strong team player.

HUMAN RESOURCES



ALLISON GOMEZ

Since joining our team six months ago, Allison has consistently demonstrated initiative, reliability, and a strong desire to learn. She has quickly familiarized herself with nearly all of our office policies and procedures—an achievement we haven't seen before in a student employee.

Allison possesses a strong work ethic and is always eager to stay productive and take on new challenges. She follows through on tasks with care and attention to detail, and she takes initiative to ensure things get done correctly and efficiently.

In addition to her reliability, Allison brings wonderful customer service skills to every interaction. She communicates clearly, treats others with respect, and represents our office with professionalism and warmth.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Allison on our team—and we know we're going to miss her when she graduates!

HOUSING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



TRINITY GUZMAN ABADILLA

Trinity exemplifies leadership as Lead Housing Service Ambassador—training and mentoring peers, planning engagement events for students and staff. She actively participated in outreach efforts including Fall Showcase 2024 and spearheaded the design of our first ever Triton Days buttons to help identify staff who could speak other languages or had knowledge of specific housing or dining topics. Trinity participated in student staff recruitment by reviewing resumes and interviewing top candidates. Always in the top three for our Nextiva calls weekly. She is a wonderful example of a leader to her student staff peers.

HOUSING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



ALISON COLON

Alison delivers exceptional service—consistently a top three Nextiva call-taker, praised for their professionalism and support to the TCAS team. Their dedication shines through mentoring peers, assisting with outreach, and taking on extra responsibilities, embodying reliability, initiative, and the spirit of teamwork that uplifts our Housing Services mission.

JOHNS MARKET



OLIVIANA LUBINGER

Oliviana is a pleasure to work with. She always takes initiative, does a great job, has exceptional customer service, and has a wonderful personality.

JOHNS MARKET



SOFIA PEDROZA

Sofia is a pleasure to work with. She always takes initiative, does a great job, has exceptional customer service, and has a wonderful personality.

MESA NUEVA & NUEVO WEST



ALYSSA LIN

Alyssa consistently demonstrates teamwork, professionalism, and outstanding customer service. Her positive attitude and dedication make her an invaluable part of the team, ensuring everyone feels welcomed and supported.

MESA NUEVA & NUEVO WEST



ALEE ONG

Alee excels in collaboration and consistently delivers exceptional customer service. Her commitment, reliability, and positive energy enhance both the resident experience and the overall success of the team.

OCEANVIEW

VIOLET OLIVER

With only a couple months of training, Violet Oliver hit the floor running as OceanView's Student Success Coordinator. Some of her achievements include, reassessing student closing procedures and creating a guide. She has contributed to the development of an effective student schedule by providing suggestions based on first-hand experience and communication from other students. She has worked with the leads to identify their individual areas for development, and worked close with the new leads to ensure clear expectations.



OCEANVIEW



MARIAH DIAZ

Mariah Diaz has contributed greatly as a well-balanced shift leader and great example for all employees. Mariah creates a welcoming, fair and comfortable environment with the leads and career employees, helping bridge communicating gaps. She leads by example and works efficiently to serve the customers while maintaining clean work areas. Mariah is also effective at assessing needs during rushes and providing direction to the students, while maintaining a calm and confident demeanor.

PINES



JANICE JANG

Janice always has a smile, a positive approach, and does not avoid a challenge. She has an excellent attitude, always willing to learn something new or help a co-worker. She works well independently, with the career staff, or with her student co-workers. We appreciated your hard work and look forward to your journey as our SSC leader!

PINES



ELIJAH DIGA

Eli is one of our department's most positive and energetic student leaders. During the fall opening of Pines restaurant, Eli would bounce from station to station, training and supporting the new students. He regularly asks if he can stay to help if we have staffing shortages, always with a smile and a thank you. Our ordering system crashed several times this year, and Eli is always at the forefront of managing the chaos to ensure our students receive the correct meal as ordered. Thank you.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP



YOYO YANG

Yoyo has excelled in her role as the Chair of the UC San Diego chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary. She has gone above and beyond her responsibilities to support student leaders throughout all the undergraduate housing communities.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP



ISHA KHIRWADKAR

Isha has been a committed student leader in her role as President of the Inter-College Residents' Association and strives to increase ICRA's impact on the residential experience for undergraduate students across campus.

RESTAURANTS AT SIXTH



JOANNA CASTILLO ESPARZA

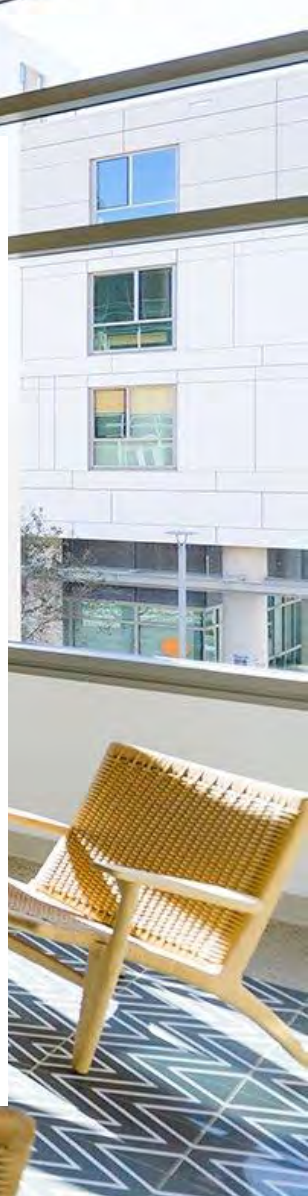
I proudly nominate Joanna for the Exemplary Student Employee Prize. She embraced and developed the new Student Success Coordinator role, becoming an outstanding leader. Joanna excels in communication, training, and building team culture. Her dedication, mentorship, and impact on team success make her truly deserving of this recognition.

RESTAURANTS AT SIXTH



JASON PEREZ

Jason is a dedicated and hard-working team leader who prioritizes successful operations throughout his shift, is consistently focused on quality and through strong engagement and maintaining standards makes those around him better every day.



ROGERS MARKET



URIEL GAMBOA MARTINEZ

Uriel consistently demonstrates exceptional customer service, attentive communication and solutions-oriented approach. Uriel has strong work ethic and reliability making him an asset to the team. Goes above and beyond what is asked of him and always collaborating with team members. Showing positivity, teamwork and workplace culture.

ROGERS MARKET



PAOLA CASTANEDA OROZCO

Paola displays hard work ethic, reliability and positive work culture. She collaborates with team members on solutions and always looking for way to contribute and improve processes. Paolas dedication and contribution is highly appreciated and meaningful to companies success.

SEVENTH MARKET



JENNIFER ORTIZ

We are incredibly lucky to have Jennifer as our Student Success Coordinator. Her dedication to both the business and our community is unmatched. Jennifer brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to all aspects of the Market and Deli, consistently demonstrating strong leadership in staff training and delivering outstanding customer service. Her positive impact is felt every day, and we're grateful to have her on the team.

SEVENTH MARKET



JULIE TAN

Julie is an exceptional Lead who consistently stays on top of everything, ensuring the business runs smoothly day in and day out. Her leadership creates a positive and productive environment not only for the team but also for customers, making her an invaluable part of our success.

SIXTH MARKET



JAZLYN WARREN

Jazlyn consistently demonstrates outstanding customer service by professionally greeting guests and providing them with accurate information, accompanied by a warm and welcoming demeanor. She consistently delivers high-quality work, showcasing commendable closing skills and excelling in her responsibilities. Jazlyn readily offers assistance to colleagues, follows guidance effectively, and exhibits remarkable initiative. As a dependable and collaborative team member, she contributes positively to the work environment and makes collaboration a rewarding experience.

SIXTH MARKET



RACHEL CARRILLO

Rachel stands out as an exemplary student worker, consistently delivering outstanding customer service with her warm and approachable demeanor. She excels in guiding customers through the JWO system, ensuring they feel confident and supported throughout their experience. Rachel's commitment to welcoming and assisting customers with genuine care reflects her dedication to quality in all tasks she undertakes. By collaborating effectively with her colleagues to verify orders and efficiently organizing backstock, she plays a crucial role in maintaining operational excellence. Moreover, her natural initiative and proactive attitude make her a valuable asset to the team, as she continuously seeks ways to improve processes and enhance customer satisfaction.

STUDENT MAIL



ALEXANDER DEGUZMAN

Alex began as a Logistics Assistant and, through dedication and initiative, advanced to Logistics Student Lead over three years. His outstanding customer service, work ethic, and leadership consistently elevate team performance and enhance every customer interaction, leaving a lasting departmental impact.

SUNSHINE MARKET



DAYNA NAVARRO SOSA

Dayna has consistently demonstrated outstanding customer service, delivering friendly and professional support to both peers and staff. Their quality of work is reliable and detail-oriented, showing pride and care in every task. They take initiative daily, often stepping up without being asked, and contribute positively to team dynamics through strong collaboration and communication. Their efforts have had a meaningful impact on RRSS operations, making them a valuable and dependable member of the team.

SUNSHINE MARKET

PAMELA HERNANDEZ

Pamela stands out as a dedicated and dependable student employee who brings consistency, professionalism, and a strong work ethic to every shift. They excel in providing excellent customer service, maintaining a calm and helpful presence. Their work is always completed with care and accuracy, and they often take initiative by identifying tasks and completing them without being prompted. They work exceptionally well with the team, always ready to support others and contribute to a positive work environment. Their ongoing contributions have been a great asset to RRSS.

TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



TRINITY ORTIZ

Trinity is an outstanding student employee whose initiative, innovation, and dedication have significantly advanced the Business Intelligence team. She created impactful dashboards, improved internal processes, and consistently exceeded expectations—setting a high standard in customer service, teamwork, and quality of work across RRSS and IPPS.

TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



AJAY KUMAR

Ajay has been a great asset to the IPPS team, consistently supporting daily operations and eagerly embracing new challenges. His initiative and contributions to TechPM projects have significantly advanced our continuous improvement efforts, making him a standout team member deserving of recognition.

THE BISTRO



MARISSA MICHALIK

Marissa has done a wonderful job as The Bistro's Student Success Coordinator. She has maintained her composure during tough times, been a leader and someone that our students can relate to. We are so happy to have been able to work with her and we appreciate her very much!

THE BISTRO



ALYSSA HERMSTAD

Lyssa has been such a valuable part of our team! She has incredible patience and a contagious positive energy that can brighten your day! She has trained so many of our students on back of house and on the hot line, that they have been able to thrive under guidance. We can't thank her enough for her positive energy and her willingness to learn something new and share the knowledge! We appreciate her so much!

TROVE



DAMIAN TO

Damian has been with us at The Trove since being a first-year student. Damian knows every aspect of the daily Trove duties and works in our main mail facility. Additionally, Damian is the Lead RA with Warren college. Damian manages a heavy work schedule and maintains a healthy balance with his RA duties and personal life.

TROVE



KATE LEE

Kate was brought in from working at our main mail facility and quickly learned The Trove duties, helping us to develop new strategies with package distribution over the summer months prior to the onset of Fall Quarter. Kate is also a Warren RA.

UPPER DIVISION HOUSING (PCE, RITA, PCW)



AILIN SITU

Ailin takes initiative to improve office procedures and excels at providing excellent customer service to all of our residents and guests. She shares resources with residents and coworkers to help improve their experience on-campus, even with situations outside the scope of Reslife. Ailin has proven to be a reliable leader, as she has helped new student desk staff on the team with understanding policies and procedures without being asked.

UPPER DIVISION HOUSING (PCE, RITA, PCW)



JENICA QUILATAN

Jenica leads with a consistently positive attitude, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for both residents and staff. Her strong work ethic is matched by her growing knowledge, which she eagerly shares to assist others. She plays a key role in fostering collaboration, learning, and overall team success.

64 DEGREES



BRYAN MONTOYA

Bryan has always demonstrated what it means to be an exemplary leader. He has found ways to make his position more efficient, paving the road for future SSC's to be successful.

64 DEGREES



ATHENA HUDSON

Athena has proven to be very dependable and is admired by her peers. She leads by example and always directs with kindness and understanding.