

Winter 2025 Classified Staff Excellence Award



Congratulations to Patricia "Trish" Fitzsimons, Program Specialist 3, from Community and Continuing Education, the 2025 Winter Classified Staff Excellence Award recipient!

A warm congratulations to the other award nominees:

- Carly Rae Zent, Communications & Marketing
- Courtney Braddock, Accounting Services
- Manda Levie, Social Sciences & Fine Arts
- Sara Irons, Child & Family Services
- Tiffany Saari, WPTE & STEM Unit

Excerpts from Patricia's nomination

"Trish consistently demonstrates a profound commitment to enhancing CCE departmental operations and the student experience at Clark College, fully embodying the criteria for special achievements. She actively seeks out and implements innovative efficiency measures that benefit both students and staff and, in turn, the college community. For instance, Trish has sent proactive reminders to students about upcoming classes, which has led to improved attendance rates and minimized no-shows and late drops."

"Trish maintains an exemplary commitment to fostering and supporting individual and organizational diversity and inclusion. Over the past two years, she has welcomed over 5,000-plus test takers from a myriad of backgrounds, creating an inclusive environment at our testing center. Her efforts extend beyond mere numbers; they are rooted in genuine engagement with individuals from diverse cultures, languages, gender identities, and life experiences. One of her distinguishing qualities is her openness to discussions about equity and inclusion. She actively engages with visitors who may face language barriers when seeking support in our office. This dedication not only aids in breaking down

communication obstacles but also fosters a sense of belonging among those we serve. Her lived experience as an immigrant enriches her perspective and inspires her advocacy."

About the Classified Staff Awards

Established in 2005, the Classified Staff Excellence Award recognizes classified staff who have demonstrated exemplary work performance, a positive and cooperative spirit, special achievements, or contributions to the college community, and supports individual and organizational diversity and inclusion. Through the support of the Clark College

Foundation, the recipient will receive a \$400 cash award.

Criteria: Nominees must be a current classified employee who has been in their current position for more than six months. Award recipients will not be eligible for another award for three years.

[Learn more about this award here](#)

Nominate A Deserving Colleague

Do you know a colleague who deserves this recognition? Nominate them for this award.

Visit the [Clark College Employee Recognition](#) page to learn more about this award and other ways to acknowledge the value and dedication of our staff and faculty.