

Summer 2023 Classified Staff Excellence Award

Congratulations to Heather King, Unit Operations Manager, Business and Health Sciences, recipient of the Summer 2023 Classified Staff Excellence Award.

Spring 2023 Classified Staff Excellence Award

Congratulations to Cheryl Davenport, Library and Archives Paraprofessional 4, recipient of the spring 2023 Classified Staff Excellence Award.

New tenured professor

Bruce Elgort, a professor in Clark College's Computer Technology department, was granted tenure unanimously by the Clark College Board of Trustees on May 24.

New tenured professors

Nine outstanding educators were granted tenure unanimously by the Clark College Board of Trustees. They were honored at a college reception on May 16.

Winter 2023 Quarterly Classified Staff Excellence Award

Congratulations to Manda (Jacqueline) Levie, Interim Unit Operations Manager, Social Sciences and Fine Arts, recipient of the 2023 Winter Quarter Classified Staff Excellence Award!

Opening Day 2022

Clark College starts the new academic year with its first in-person Opening Day since 2019.

President Edwards said that although she has been at Clark College for over 2 years, this was the first in-person opening day celebration, and she was loving it!

Winter 2022 Classified Staff Excellence Award recipient: Chris Chaffin

Congratulations to Chris Chaffin, Program Support Supervisor, Student Tutoring Services recipient of the 2022 Winter Quarter Classified Staff Excellence Award!

2021 Annual Employee Awards



Five employees received annual awards in three categories at Clark College's 2021 Opening Day event, held virtually on September 13.

Awards announced included:

- Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award
- Exceptional Classified Staff Award
- Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award

Additionally, the Exceptional Faculty Awards, which were announced during Commencement, were recognized a second time. Employees were also recognized for their years of service, with one employee, David Sims of IT Services, honored for 40 years of service to the college.

Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award

Mike See, *Director of Safety and Security*



Michael See

Mike See joined Clark College in November 2016 as its emergency manager. He was named Interim Director of Safety and Security in September 2017 and was named permanently to the position in December of that year. A retired captain with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, See brings to Clark College extensive experience in law enforcement, institutional safety, and emergency management.

See's nominators said, "His approach helps to build bridges around campus, and helps to break down silos. It makes people

feel like their work and department matter to more than just their little piece of the pie. That helps to breed pride in work and helps people to take ownership of their work product.

“Mike is open to doing whatever he needs to do to make the college work better. I have rarely met an employee at any level of the college in my 24 years who is more dedicated to making this a better place to be for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.”

Congratulations to all the other nominees for the 2021 Exceptional Administrative Exempt Award:

- Wendé Fisher, *Advising*
- Renee Schiffhauer, *Advising*
- Brenda Walstead, *Dean of Business and Health Sciences*
- Nicole Rogers Marcum, *Office of Instruction*
- Julie Robertson, *Grant Development*
- Abby Thompson, *Enrollment Services*
- Cindi Olson, *Student Affairs*
- Jennifer Lea, *Business Division*
- Katlyn Viers, *Advising*
- Angela Ford, *IT Services*

Exceptional Classified Staff Award

Jordan De Van, *Program Specialist, Enrollment Services*



Jordan De Van

Jordan De Van is a Program Specialist in Enrollment Services. Comments from her nomination include:

- “Jordan has one of the strongest senses of customer service and how it should be demonstrated. She not only responds quickly to inquiries from students and other departments, she responds happily despite her busy workload.”
- “Jordan is always helpful and understanding when assisting others outside of her department. Instead of rushing through issues that arise with tracking student grades in the database system, she takes the time to investigate, and assists instructors to better prepare them if the issue were to arise again in the future.”
- “Jordan’s knowledge, expertise and sense of humor always makes working with her a pleasure.”
- “She assists each individual in a way that they can understand the steps of the process and provides them with direction that helps them along further in the process—all with a smile on her face.”

**Damon Grady, *Campus Security Sergeant,
Security and Safety Services***



Damon Grady

Damon Grady has been with Clark College's Security and Safety Department since 1997. He served as a Campus Security Officer for 20 years before being promoted to the sergeant's rank in January of 2018. Comments about Grady include:

- "He frequently takes after-hours calls and adjusts his shifts so that his people get the support they need. Managing the schedule for 17 people, half of whom are part-time, to provide 24-hour coverage is a difficult and complicated endeavor."
- "Damon has gone beyond his role. When he noticed the decrease in on-campus staff presences, he purposefully expanded his knowledge on all the student-facing services and learned how they work to best support Clark students so he would be prepared to answer students' questions during the COVID-19 pandemic."
- "Damon works closely with his subordinates to ensure they have the training and guidance necessary to be successful in their respective roles."
- "Damon responded to a medical call that involved a person with a life-threatening injury. He was quick to respond while properly assessing the situation and keeping those involved safe and calm until EMS arrived."

Congratulations to all the other nominees for the 2020-2021 Exceptional Classified Award:

- All Classified Staff
- Dan Ellertson, *Retail Clerk Lead, Bookstore*
- Darci Feider, *Program Coordinator, Student Life*
- Jerry Horn, *Secretary Senior, WPTE + STEM UNIT*
- Jen King, *Program Specialist 2, Financial Aid*
- Christy Lewis, *Fiscal Technician 3, Information Accounting Services*
- Malissa Pierce, *Program Specialist 2, Transitional Studies Division*
- Tiffany Saari, *Secretary Senior, WPTE + STEM UNIT*
- Karina Sanchez, *Program Specialist 3, Financial Aid*
- Kayla Escott, *Program Manager, Financial Aid*
- Jenny Shadley, *Graphic Design Supervisor, Communications & Marketing*
- Everett Yu, *Equipment Technician 3, Grounds*

Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award

Hanan Al-Zubaidy, *Director of Clark College at Larch*

Hanan Al-Zubaidy is Director of Clark College at Larch Corrections Center. A nominator had this to say about her: "In winter of 2021, when COVID ran rampant through Larch Corrections Center, Hanan prioritized accommodating our students through the outbreak, if faculty felt comfortable entering, and worked with Department of Corrections administration to provide learning materials to eager students, rather than making them wait. Students were able to graduate during a month-long lockdown as a direct result of Hanan going above and beyond to manage a student-centered approach in even the most challenging and stressful

of circumstances. We have watched Hanan overcome the misogyny, racism and ignorance that exists within the ranks of the DOC, and she rose anyway from graduate student intern, to Reentry Navigator, to Director.”

Kushlani de Soyza, *Professor of Women’s Studies*

Kushlani de Soyza joined Clark College as a tenured professor of women’s studies in 2013. A nominator said this about her: “Kushlani is committed to ensuring her students feel safe in class and at Clark in general. For example, as the college periodically suggests changes that will impact instruction—[such as] how, what, and where we teach—Kushlani doesn’t shy away from standing up for her students by emphasizing that their needs are paramount and that changes that impact our ability to serve students from marginalized groups should be made cautiously.”

Other nominees for the Lora Whitfield Social Equity Award:

- Cath Busha, *Dean of Student Engagement*
- Connor Cantrell, Amanda Brown and Tasha Robertson, *Clark College Libraries Access Services*
- Mike Godson, *Professor of Automotive Technologies*
- Tre Sandlin, *Teaching and Learning Center*

Learn more about Clark College’s employee awards on our Human Resources web pages.

Spring 2021 Classified Staff Excellence Award recipient: Damon Grady



Damon Grady

Congratulations to **Damon Grady, Campus Security Sergeant, Security and Safety Services**, recipient of the 2021 Spring Quarter Classified Staff Excellence Award!

Damon Grady has been with Clark College's Security and Safety Department since 1997. He served as a Campus Security Officer for 20 years before being promoted to the sergeant's rank in January of 2018. Comments about Grady include:

- "He frequently takes after-hours calls and adjusts his shifts so that his people get the support they need. Managing the schedule for 17 people, half of whom are part-time, to provide 24-hour coverage is a difficult and complicated endeavor."
- "Damon has gone beyond his role. When he noticed the decrease in on-campus staff presences, he purposefully expanded his knowledge on all the student-facing services and learned how they work to best support Clark

students so he would be prepared to answer students' questions during the COVID-19 pandemic."

- "Damon works closely with his subordinates to ensure they have the training and guidance necessary to be successful in their respective roles."
- "Damon responded to a medical call that involved a person with a life-threatening injury. He was quick to respond while properly assessing the situation and keeping those involved safe and calm until EMS arrived."

Congratulations as well to the other Spring 2021 nominees:

- Christy Lewis- Fiscal Technician, Accounting Services
- Jennifer King- Program Specialist, Financial Aid
- Jordan De Van- Program Specialist, Enrollment Services
- Kayla Escott- Program Manager, Financial Aid
- Malissa Pierce- Program Specialist, Transitional Studies Division

Christy Lewis

Christy Lewis is a Fiscal Technician in Accounting Services. Comments from her nomination include:

- "Christy has served on the ACE Scholarship Committee multiple times, helping to give funds to college members and their families to help make higher education possible."
- "When Accounting converted to a new system, Christy kept a positive attitude and learned to work through the bumps and challenges of change."
- "Christy works with customers to help them understand their accounting-related issues, no matter who they are or their level of understanding."
- "Christy always treats all people with respect and kindness when serving them and working through their request and issues."

Jennifer King

Jennifer King is a Program Specialist in the Office of Financial Aid. Comments from her nomination include:

- “Jen awards more than 600 students with emergency funds, each term. This spring term, Jen awarded additional funds to students, which means she made 1200 awards. Jen agreed to this overwhelming task in the midst of preparing financial aid packages for fall term—an enormous undertaking. When we have a student who has a significant emergency, Jen works quickly to award that student immediately.”
- “Jen manages multiple tasks, serves on committees, and prioritizes people first in the work that she does. She leads with kindness and a smile and is always a pleasure to work with.”
- “Weekly, she commits significant time and energy to meet the emergent needs of students during an uncertain and stressful time.”
- “Jen’s commitment to creating an effective, efficient program has made a difference to hundreds of student emergency-grant recipients, many of whom report being homeless or at risk of homelessness.”

Jordan De Van

Jordan De Van is a Program Specialist in Enrollment Services. Comments from her nomination include:

- “Jordan has one of the strongest senses of customer service and how it should be demonstrated. She not only responds quickly to inquiries from students and other departments, she responds happily despite her busy workload.”
- “Jordan is always helpful and understanding when

assisting others outside of her department. Instead of rushing through issues that arise with tracking student grades in the database system, she takes the time to investigate, and assists instructors to better prepare them if the issue were to arise again in the future.”

- “Jordan’s knowledge, expertise and sense of humor always makes working with her a pleasure.”
- “She assists each individual in a way that they can understand the steps of the process and provides them with direction that helps them along further in the process—all with a smile on her face.”

Kayla Escott

Kayla Escott is a Program Manager in the Office of Financial Aid. Comments from her nomination include:

- “Every task that Kayla approaches is done with the student’s best interest in mind. She goes above and beyond in all aspects of her position, whether that is intentionally meeting one-on-one with the staff she oversees, taking time to schedule an in-depth appointment with a student, or leading numerous project efforts within our office. Every project she tackles is done efficiently and thoroughly in spite of tight deadlines and competing priorities.”
- “Kayla provides outstanding customer service, both directly and indirectly. She intentionally takes time to meet with students in unique and challenging situations. Beyond this, she ensures that any students who interact with the Financial Aid office receive excellent customer service by equipping front desk staff with effective tools to do so.”
- “To encourage comradery and team spirit, Kayla initiated a virtual ‘Spirit Week’ for staff to help keep team spirits and communication up while working remotely.”
- “Kayla has always shown a strong commitment to equity in

all aspects of her work. One example is how she recently began working with Disability Support Services to convert all Financial Aid documents to a format that is accessible for students using reader devices.

Malissa Pierce

Malissa Pierce is a Program Specialist in Transitional Studies. Comments from her nomination include:

- “Malissa had grown the Open Doors program within one year from 10 students to almost 40. She is trying to volunteer with the Vancouver School District Truancy Board so she can understand her students’ needs better.”
- “Malissa actively engages in campus diversity strategies; supports recruitment, retention, completion efforts of students from diverse backgrounds, participates in equitable hiring practices for Transitional Studies department, and Malissa is learning Spanish so she can better support our Spanish-speaking students.”
- “Malissa is a great communicator and works across multiple departments on campus to make sure that every department has the right information and has the opportunity to discuss with her if they need further clarification.”
- “Malissa loves working one-on-one with her students. She is constantly reaching out to other departments for assistance in making her students’ college experience as smooth as possible.”

About the Classified Staff

Excellence Award

The Classified Staff Excellence Award was established in 2005 and recognizes classified staff who have demonstrated exemplary work performance, outstanding customer service, a positive and cooperative spirit and special achievements or contributions to the college community. Through the support of the Clark College Foundation, the recipient will receive a \$400 cash award.

Exceptional Faculty Awards



Professor Michelle Mallory is all smiles before Clark College's 2021 Commencement ceremony. *Photo: Clark College/Tarek Kanso*

Six outstanding members of Clark College's faculty have been recognized for their contributions to the college with a 2021

Clark College Exceptional Faculty Award.

These awards are presented annually to full-time and part-time faculty members. Nominations can be submitted by Clark College students, faculty, classified employees, administrators, alumni, Board members, and Foundation directors. Traditionally, they are announced during Commencement. This year, Commencement was held on June 17 on Christensen Soccer Field.

The awards are made possible through an endowed trust fund established by the Washington State Legislature and the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Endowment Fund, which was established in 1993. That fund provides recognition of exemplary work performance, positive impact on students, professional commitment, and other contributions to the college.

Below are this year's Exceptional Faculty members, along with quotes from their nominators:

Kayoko Barnhill, mathematics

"I have been taking Math for Elementary Education courses, and her course is very tailored not just to learning the materials, but learning how to teach each others in class. I have struggled with math my whole life, and her course gave me confidence that not only could I learn it, but I could gain deeper understanding and effectively teach it."

Tony Chennault, biology

"He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He encouraged me to keep going, he told me I could do it when I didn't think I could do it myself. He teaches in a way that you understand, even if it's not your strongest subject. He is so inspiring, motivating, and encouraging."

Nami Inoue, Japanese

“When I first began at Clark College, I had a very negative outlook on school based on my previous high school experiences. I decided to take some classes for fun and try out a college environment. Inoue Sensei’s passion for teaching and love for her students was so warm compared to any teacher I’ve had before. She helped me rediscover the love I have for learning and school.”

Michelle Mallory, early childhood education

“To know Michelle is to love Michelle! She is a fierce defender of the learner and believes strongly in meeting the learner where they are at and with respect, dignity and recognition of the learner’s culture and style of learning.”

Joshua Patrick, English

“Professor Patrick has taught me that I should never be ashamed to voice my opinion. He made me feel smart, validated, and taught me how to communicate my thoughts and opinions to others in an effective way to make them listen. He also engraved some very useful critical-thinking skills into my brain that I think will be very helpful throughout the rest of my college experience—but most importantly, I’ll be able to apply these skills to my daily life.”

Kristi Taylor, dental hygiene

“Kristi has been incredibly supportive in a time of great financial uncertainty and worked on behalf of all her students to help us figure out a plan, or make contact with those who could offer us answers and help. She worked to provide all of us with an avenue for covid vaccination if we desired it. She

works tirelessly on our behalf and still manages to answer emails in less than an hour. She's basically Wonder Woman!"



Professor Kristi Taylor, *top row second from left*, stands with faculty, staff and graduates from the Dental Hygiene program at Clark College's 2021 Commencement. *Photo: Clark College/Tarek Kanso*