Welcome to the 40th Annual Classified Employee Service Awards
Monday, June 12th, 2023
11:30pm
A Building Patio
# Service Awards Recipients

**5 Years**
- Charlene Jones
- Haruko Takeshita
- Zenia Torres
- Lilia Davis
- Sheila Davis
- Louay Phillip
- Mayra Munoz
- Bruce Lundy
- Maria Martin

**10 Years**
- Rudy Juarez
- Troy Franklin

**15 Years**
- Laura Steininger-Paxton
- Marian Rodriguez
- Cyprian Iwuaba
- William Welton
- Rogerio Da Rosa
- Jay Purnell

**20 Years**
- Melissa Chea
- Sean Ryan
- Eric Sandoval
- Edward Sebring
- Susan Chandler

**25 Years**
- Maria Sataua
- Sylvette Abbott
- Son Duong
- Lori Oldham
- Lydia Gonzales
- Maritza Millan

**35 Years**
- Edward Michel
Celebrating 5 years of service...
Charlene Jones
Administrative Assistant I

Congratulations on receiving the 5 years of Service Award!

We want to thank you for your hard work all these years and for demonstrating our Tutorial/Learning Center's values of serving student first.

Your work on assisting our students, staff and faculty, and representing our center are exceptional, and we're grateful to have you as a part of the TLC family.

Lance Soukhaseum, Tutorial/Learning Center Director
Haruko Takeshita is the alien in bright green: “Her True Form”

Regie Balintec Student Accounting
Zenia Torres
Administrative Assistant IV

Zenia is a force to be reckoned with! She's smart as a whip and very talented at her job. As the Administrative Assistant for the School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing Education, Zenia provides support to the second largest school at San Diego City College.

Zenia loves her City College family and treats each individual with grace and corazón (heart). Zenia cares deeply about the well-being of our students, our faculty, and her classified colleagues. She lives the social justice mission in her words and in her actions. We are incredibly fortunate to work with Zenia.

- Lety Lopez
Today, we gather here to honor and celebrate an outstanding individual who has dedicated five remarkable years of classified service to our esteemed institution. When Lili joined our team as part of the international student recruitment division, we knew we had gained an invaluable asset. Her extensive experience in matriculation at both the college and university level brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our department. Lili's profound understanding of the intricacies of admissions and records has been instrumental in streamlining our processes and ensuring the seamless transition of international students into our academic community.

What truly sets Lili apart is her genuine passion for working with City College's diverse student population. Her unwavering dedication and commitment to providing the highest level of support and guidance to our international students have not only helped them navigate through the complexities of the educational system but also fostered a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Beyond her role in admissions and records, Lili's thirst for personal and professional growth is evident. With a Master's degree in Education Counseling & Guidance, she has embarked on a journey to expand her horizons, into academic counseling.

On behalf of the entire Admissions and Records department, I congratulate you, Lili Davis, on this well-deserved five-year classified service award. May this be just the beginning of a long and successful career filled with continued growth, fulfillment, and profound achievements.

Dora Meza
I share with you today my utmost gratitude and admiration for an individual who has made an indelible mark on the lives of our students. It is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that I extend my heartfelt thanks to our esteemed Sheila Davis, AKA Scholarship Coordinator.

Sheila’s guidance and support throughout the scholarship application process have been invaluable, ensuring that every student receives fair consideration. I appreciate your commitment to maintaining transparency and integrity in the scholarship selection process. By establishing clear criteria and evaluating applications carefully, you have ensured that deserving students are chosen and given the opportunity to pursue their academic goals. Your prompt responses to inquiries and your willingness to go the extra mile to assist students truly set you apart. Sheila’s belief in the potential of each applicant serves as a driving force, motivating us to strive for excellence.

Sheila, know that your efforts are sincerely valued and admired, and we wish you continued success and fulfillment in your important role.

- Wendy Wang
Louay Phillip
Senior Account Clerk

Louay is on the far left:
“The Refund Maestro”

Regie Balintec
Student Accounting
I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your exceptional work. Mayra enjoys working with students, in review of their financial aid eligibility and awards. Mayra has partnered with the Dreamer Center for assistance in helping students find additional resources. Mayra never says no when assigned additional program responsibilities or the assignment of financial aid presentations. Staff enjoys Mayra’s happy smiles, teamwork and her commitment to office teamwork. For Mayra, student satisfaction, customer service and quality has been her priority as Technician. She is generous and committed to her role.

Thank you for making the financial aid team stronger with your knowledge and positive outlook for all students.

- Alisia Rincon
  Financial Aid
Bruce Lundy

Textbook Buyer

Bruce Lundy is a crucial role in student success and SD City Bookstore Textbook operations. Bruce has been in many rolls in his past careers in various well known College bookstores. As the SD City College bookstore textbook buyer, he is keen on communication with instructors as well as the SDCCD students, in the pursuit to help obtain and access course materials for each semester. I would like to congratulate him on his continued success.

- SOL MADRID
  (ACTING CITY BOOKSTORE SUPERVISOR)
Maria Martin
Custodian

Maria was hired as a contract in November 2017 at Mesa College, the same time I started my journey at City College. About 6 months later Maria had the opportunity to transfer to City. In May of 2018 Maria came here, and we haven’t looked back. Maria currently maintains multiple floors in the AH bldg. She is a hard worker and strives to provide excellent service to the campus community. I love her enthusiasm and her can do attitude. She’s always smiling (even when she’s having a bad day).

Maria recently graduated from City College, so yes, she is a City Alum. It was amazing to see her walk at the 2023 commencement. She is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in communications.

When she’s not working, Maria’s spending time with her mother, friends and family. We are definitely blessed to have her on our team.

Thank you for your continued support of City College.

- Jay
Celebrating 10 years of service...
We are proud to acknowledge Rudy's unwavering dedication throughout his ten years of service at the San Diego City College Library. Rudy's commitment to our library's mission has been truly exceptional. His passion for fostering inclusivity and providing outstanding outreach has made a significant impact on our diverse community. We are grateful for his tireless efforts and the immense contributions he has made to empower and uplift our student body. Rudy's dedication is an inspiration to us all, and we deeply appreciate his continued commitment to excellence.

- Daniel Gonzalez
Troy Franklin
Custodian

Wonderful Volunteer - Great Leader - Much appreciated -

Knows his stuff - Reliable - Dependable - Great Humor -

Positive - Happy Appearance - Committed to Excellence -

And the goodness goes on and on....

You have a GREAT future ahead of you, Troy!!
San Diego City College appreciates you!
Celebrating 15 years of service...
Laura Steininger
ILT/Biology

Laura is an asset to the Biology Department. Part of her responsibilities involve growing plants and skillfully caring for our resident lizards, tortoises, rabbits, and fish. Laura is an experienced mentor to new lab tech hires and hourlies. She brings historical knowledge and perspective to her position and pivots as needed to accommodate changes in schedules. We appreciate your time & talent, Laura.

-Lety
I extend sincere congratulations to Marian for her dedicated service to the students at City College over the past 15 years. Her colleagues and friends describe her as warm, cariñoso, loving, amazing, noble, friendly, sweet, welcoming, passionate, empathetic, generous-hearted, and caring. Many students at City consider Marian like a mom or auntie. Marian possesses a beautiful and giving spirit, which epitomizes City College's You Belong Here mantra. She is a very valued and appreciated member of the Student Affairs team. Thank you, Marian, for your hard work, kind soul and commitment to student success!

Congratulations, Marian, on your 15th year of service at City and for serving our students with excellence!

- Lori Oldham
Cyprian Iwuaba  Multimedia Specialist

Ladies and gentlemen, brace yourselves as we present to you a man whose journey begins over 6,000 miles away, and crosses oceans, languages, and careers. He's the embodiment of the American Dream, proof that with passion, persistence, and a little divine intervention, anyone can carve out a beautiful life in this land of opportunity. Please give a hearty applause for Cyprian, the charismatic, multi-talented gentleman who swapped Nigerian sunshine for American ambition at the tender age of nine. His transition wasn't without its challenges, but Cyprian navigated his way through school, quickly adapting to his new home while juggling the cultural tug-of-war with his origins.

After high school, Cyprian dove headfirst into the Navy, braving the waves of adversity, and navigating his way through life like a seasoned sailor. There's no storm he hasn't weathered, no challenge he hasn't embraced. After navigating rough seas and odd jobs, he stumbled upon his love for film production, and let's just say, he's been shooting stars ever since!

15 years ago, City welcomed him into the Facilities Department, where he quickly became the unseen hero, going above and beyond in his duties. From scrubbing the bathrooms until they sparkled, making sure every toilet was spotless, to tidying up the offices. The Child Development Center was always clean and welcoming for the little ones. He often found himself doubling up on duties, going that extra mile. He's also moonlighting as a freelance multimedia wizard, lighting up screens big and small. With unwavering determination, he applied 3 times for the position of Multimedia Specialist. And just like in the best movies, he finally got the role! His relentless pursuit and never-give-up attitude is an inspiration to us all.

In his spare time, if he isn't behind a camera, he's probably modeling his wife's UGOCHI IWUABA designs. Yes, that's right! His better half is none other than the internationally acclaimed fashion designer. Cyprian's also built a beautiful family. He's the proud father of three charming kids who he absolutely adores. His life story is the stuff of the American Dream, thanking God every step of the way for his blessings. Cyprian, you've been more than a colleague to us; you're family. May God continue to guide your path, as He has done so brilliantly these past years. Here's to many more years of success, laughter, and memorable moments!

- Jay
William Welton
Facilities Supervisor/Custodian

Billy started his career at City College and quickly rose through the ranks. He promoted to Custodial crew leader at Mesa College, and naturally progressed to City College where he is currently a custodial supervisor. Billy is in charge of the second and third shifts that work at night at City. I appreciate Billy’s continued support of the City college community. When not working Billy spends time with his wife, 2 sons and 1 daughter. Billy is our local fishing expert. If you need info on fresh or salt water fishing he’s the guy to see.

Fun fact about Billy: He holds a Captains license and used to run the daily fishing charters on the Mission Belle.

We look forward to having Billy for another 20 years....

- Jay Purnell
Rogerio Da Rosa
Custodian

Roger has been at City College his whole career. He started on 3rd shift and now works with my rough rider crew on 1st. Roger is that employee that is always smiling and makes you laugh. He is that employee that you can count on being at work every day. If he’s not there something is wrong.

It’s been a pleasure working with him and will be for another 10 yrs. When not at work Roger spends time with his family and friends.

Fun facts about Roger:
- he speaks fluent Portuguese
- he was once a Tuna boat Captain in Portugal
- he currently drives the commercial planes at Lindbergh field.

-Jay
Jay Purnell
(Regional Facilities Officer)

Thank you for your service throughout the years!!

As you can tell by the heartfelt expressions he gives his crew, not just on this awards ceremony, but previous as well, Jay is a very caring, involved and ever enduring Manager. He's got his crew's back and is encouraging and supportive of everyone.

Jay has been seen joining right in on projects that he could easily just have other people do, and is so willing to do what it takes to make things right for our campus and for all of the staff.

He always finds a solution, or knows who to turn to in order to find the solution for anything that comes his way.

We all hope he'll stay FOREEEEEVVVVVEEEERRRR!!!!!
Celebrating 20 years of service...
Melissa Chea
ILT/Computer Science

Melissa's 20 years of service at City College as a Computer Technician stand as a testament to her unwavering dedication, exceptional abilities, and remarkable contributions. Her impact extends far beyond the realm of technology, as she has positively influenced the lives of students, faculty, and staff alike.

Today, on behalf of City College, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for Melissa's outstanding service, congratulate her on this significant milestone, and wish her continued success and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Knowledgeable in her role! Patient with students!

-Al Cordeiro
I call Sean and Eric “the dynamic duo” as they truly complement one another. Each have their own unique talents and creativity that work together seamlessly. I actually cannot call Eric without Sean and vice versa, hence the dynamic duo and if you don’t know them, then you are definitely new to City College! Eric and Sean are Multimedia Specialists for the Office of Classroom Technology Management. They are the ones who make sure that the classrooms are operational for instruction. They are the ones who make sure that campus activities run smooth with all of the AV equipment. They are the ones who make sure that YOU are happy! I remember them telling me one time to change our department’s name from Office of Classroom Technology Management to the Office of Everything. I must admit, it is such a pleasure and an honor to be celebrating 20 years of service with these two dynamic individuals, where did the time go! I can tell you, Eric and Sean were super instrumental in setting the AV bar so high, and I think President Shabazz can attest to that when he would say, I know I am pushing the envelope. Their willingness to push that envelope is very commendable and I am beyond proud and humbled to be their supervisor.

Eric, Sean, CONGRATULATIONS!!!

- Majeda
Edward Sebring
ILT/Physical Science

Ed wears the “historical memory crown” for the School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing Education. Not only is he a talented Instructional Lab Technician in Physical Sciences, he is also kind and generous in training new employees. For many years he helped the Chemistry Department with their lab preps while also prepping labs for Astronomy, Physics, and Physical Sciences. Ed is a master baker and often indulges us with his delicious oatmeal and chocolate chip cookies.

Let’s not forget his talent as a grill master at the year-end PhysSci Department barbeques.

We’re very grateful for all that you do, Ed!!

- Lety
Susan is warm-hearted, humble, friendly, generous, and kind. Susan has a positive and energetic attitude of “GOLD.” Susan takes ownership of her role and is committed to our nursing students and faculty.

I am honored to work with Susan.

I appreciate you unconditionally.
- Dr. Dee Armstrong
Celebrating 25 years of service...
I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Maria Sataua who has recently completed 25 years of exceptional service as a computer technician at San Diego City College. Maria has been an integral part of the college's IT department, providing invaluable support and expertise to faculty, staff, and students alike. Her knowledge of computer hardware and software, combined with her problem-solving skills, have made her a vital member of the team.

On behalf of all those whose lives she has touched, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and congratulations.

-Al Cordeiro
I want to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation for your exceptional work as the SSSA (AKA Cal Grant Coordinator). I am truly grateful for the dedication and effort you put into managing the Cal Grant program and significantly impacting the lives of students. Thank you for your role in administering the Cal Grant program and providing financial support to students in need.

Your commitment to assisting students in their pursuit of higher education is truly commendable. You have helped alleviate the financial burden through your efforts and opened doors of opportunity for many students. I am particularly grateful for your expertise and guidance throughout the application process. Your thorough knowledge of the Cal Grant program requirements and in completing the necessary documentation has been invaluable. Wishing you continued success in your important role, and may you continue to positively impact the lives of students for years to come.

- Alisia Rincon
I worked with Son all during my years at City. He has always been most helpful during labs as well as maintaining the labs. For example, he noticed when the roof was leaking - before the T-renovation - when the Nursing lavatory malfunctioned, or after the T-renovation when the rainstorms came and the roof leaked so many times. Son would let me know what parts would be the Electronics labs and we would work together to bring them in-house. Son would often help in other areas than Electronics as needed - Electricity or Manufacturing - or Engineering RoboSub labs. Lab areas have always been super-organized and clean. Visitors from other campus areas have often remarked about how well the labs are kept. Son would often assist students in Electronics labs when they needed extra help troubleshooting their circuits. He would often show them on how to correctly assemble complicated circuits without errors. His efforts made, and and still make, the labs a great environment for instructors - and a great experience for students. It was my great pleasure to work with Son while teaching at City.

- Fred Julian
Lori Oldham has served the SDCCD community and in particular City College through servant leadership where she takes the time to build meaningful relationships with students and colleagues. Lori’s caring approach represents City’s “You Belong” with the time and attention she gives to guests at the Office of Student Affairs.

In her time supporting Associated Students Government (ASG), Lori has worked with ASG students to inspire them to not just talk about social change but to intentionally address tangible social justice issues within City and our local community to enhance the overall student experience while authentically supporting them in their journey to maintain momentum and a positive energy. Lori has also taken the lead in coordinating and implementing key student engagement and success efforts that are now signature events at City College. We thank her commitment as her contributions have and will continue to contribute to campus life.

- Adan Sanchez
Congratulations Lydia! It’s hard to imagine that you and I have worked side by side for 24 of those years. To think of you as merely a co-worker would be skimming the surface of deep waters. For over the years of nearly a quarter century, you have become not only a great friend and confidant, you have been for me like a sister, a daughter, a teacher and humble listener, and a challenger, always helping me to navigate change. You are an old soul whose waters run deeper than you may know, and your graceful spirit is truly evidence of that. And although you and I will be moving on into retirement a few years up the road, I am sure we will continue to be companions on our future paths, wherever they may lead and intersect. With love and respect eternally, dés

Congratulations on achieving this anniversary with us! We thank you for your years of service in all areas of the campus and district level. Words are not enough to thank you for everything that you contributed to this organization. We wish you continued success in all you do. On behalf of San Diego City College Instructional Services.

Congratulations on this amazing 25th year anniversary today! You have been such a significant part of our team and we could not imagine our workplace without you. I remember the first time we met in my office, and you took the time to welcome me to City College and offered me the opportunity to learn how to navigate the city. I quickly learned you were on loan to the district office for another 10 months! As you know I fought to get you back to City College!! Eventually, our monthly dinners in San Diego turned into the “Single Ladies Dinners,” when Ira Garcia joined us in the office! Thank you for the warm welcome to San Diego City College. You are filled with college history and knowledge that has help me avoid some very painful situations!

As the 1997 slogan states: Ordering Panera for campus workshops $300.00, Ordering wagons $200.00, Lydia d. Gonzales… Priceless!!

Thank you for being my confidant, Tillie
Maritza Millan
ABSO Revenue Control Assistant

Tammy Green (Bookstore sales associate): “I known Maritza for many years and she is a wonderful person to work with and over all to just talk to about anything. She is a very hard worker and one that loves her job.

Bruce Lundy (Bookstore text buyer): “Maritza is the ideal co-worker: a good listener, always willing to help, and with remarkable skills and ability to stay focused and grounded. I think of Maritza as the heart of the City bookstore, and she’s also a true friend. Congratulations!”

Helen Chau (Bookstore Sales associate): “Maritza Milan is hard worker, good team work, as well as good listener. Everyone love to have her in the team. Congratulations!

Sol Madrid (Bookstore Acting Supervisor) :“Maritza Milan is a crucial piece of the City College bookstore team. I would like to send a big Congratulations on her Hard work, dedication, and loyalty to the San Diego Community college district as well as the San Diego City Campus community.” -GODSPEED
Celebrating 35 years of service...
Edward Michel
Senior Custodial Crew Leader

WOW!!! 35 years what can I say. He started in 1988 at Mesa College and worked his way down to City College. I gave Eddie his 30th year award when I first arrived at City. Time just flies by and here we are again, 35-year award. Amazing work Eddie. He runs the day to day operations of first shift. Eddie is the guy we send when you need something built, installed or just organized. He also manages the gas pumps, hazmat rooms and training for the crew...a very busy guy. I truly appreciate his continued support of the City College Community.

Eddie is a quiet soul and enjoys time with his 5 sons and grand kids. Unfortunately, he is a Steelers fan. He loves building and fixing things at home.

In closing just want to say thank you Eddie for your 35 yrs of dedicated service to the community college. It is truly appreciated.

Fun Facts about 1988 (When Eddie started):

1. Price of Gas .90 cents
2. Gallon of milk $2.19
3. Minimum wage $3.35
4. LA Dodgers won the world series
CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE ON YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT & CITY.

ALL YEARS COMBINE FOR AN AMAZING 29 CITY STAFF WITH 440 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Keep up the good work everyone!

... and let's look forward to re-starting our "Employee of the Year" award in the new fiscal year.
Congratulations
2023 SDAAWCC
Classified Woman of the Year Award Winner!
Edwidge Dupard
Special thanks to:
Gregory Smith, Acting Chancellor, SDCCD
SDCCD Board of Trustees
Ricky Shabazz, President, San Diego City College

Thank you to everyone who supported the City College Classified Senate throughout the year.

Thank you from your 2022 - 2023 Classified Senate Exec Board:
Sean Ryan, President
Zenia Torres, Vice President
Joan Taylor, Secretary
Salvador Guzman, Treasurer
Senators Erica Zhang, Neary Sim and Ira Garcia
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