



# 2024

## Employee Recognition Awards & Program

April 30, 2024



COLUMBUS STATE  
UNIVERSITY





# FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

## ORDER OF CEREMONY

### OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Stuart Rayfield, President

### YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Tamara Wade, Chief Human Resources Officer

### RETIREE & EMERITUS AWARDS

Dr. Pat McHenry, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President

Tamara Wade

### LEAD CSU RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Stuart Rayfield

### STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Lauren Cantrell, HRIS Analyst and Chair of Staff Council

Tamara Wade

### FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Alicia Bryan, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs

Dr. Pat McHenry

### CLOSING & CAMPUS UPDATE

Dr. Stuart Rayfield

# FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

John Avila .....	Schwob School of Music
Benjamin Baker .....	Dept. of Communication
Julie Burhenn .....	Business Office
Jalen Butler .....	Mens Basketball
Lauren Cantrell .....	Human Resources
Anne Cherry .....	Schwob School of Music
Rebekah Cummings .....	University Police
Tiffany Watson .....	UITS-Services
Lauren Davis .....	Student Recreation Center
Anna Dimitrova .....	Society, Culture & Languages
Avalandria Dixon .....	Plant Operations
Douglas Dunlap .....	University Police
Dakota Gaboury .....	University Support Services
Randall Garver .....	Center of Online Learning
Annette Guzman .....	Printing Services
Alan Haas .....	Printing Services
Charlotte Henderson .....	Teacher Ed, Leadership & Counseling
Ashley Herbolich .....	Oxbow Meadows
Natasha Hourel .....	Dept. Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Alan Karass .....	Library
William Keen .....	Student Affairs-Student Life
Hanna Lainas .....	Dept. of Teacher Ed, Leadership & Counseling
Xavier Matthews .....	Mens Cross Country
Jessie Merrell .....	Library
Chandler Padgett .....	School of Nursing
Jose Perez .....	Dept. Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Alex Plata .....	Counseling Center
Donald Rambo .....	University Police
Andrew Redmond .....	University Police
Kristi Rehrauer .....	Honors College
Michelle Repass .....	Continuing & Professional Education
Victoria Roebuck .....	Student Health
Kathy Seabolt .....	Policy, Justice & Public Safety
Justin Short .....	Enrollment Services-One-Stop Shop
Travis Smith .....	Plant Operations



Hattie Thomas.....	Dept. of Chemistry
Jherika Tyler.....	School of Nursing
Jennafer Vondal.....	Policy, Justice & Public Safety
Cherrese Walls .....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ronald Williams.....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Julie Caulder .....	Library
Ashley Cook.....	University Police
Melissa Dempsey.....	Student Affairs
Talley Dentzau.....	Dept. of Teacher Education, Leadership & Counseling
Vincent Gammage .....	UITs-Instructional Technology
Susan Greer .....	School of Nursing
Suzanne Gunnels.....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Tesa Leonce-Regalado.....	Accounting & Finance
Julianne Lowry .....	CSU Advise
Paul Luft.....	Library
Tamika McKenzie.....	School of Nursing
Jonathan Meyers .....	College of Letters & Science
Charlene Murray .....	Transportation
Carolina Pelaez-Morales.....	Dept. of English
Richard Pike.....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Barbara Psalmond.....	UITs-Services
Christopher Robinson.....	Dept. of Communication
Neil Tirado .....	UITs-Admininstration
Adrian Wade .....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Debra Whatley .....	Center Quality Teaching & Learning
David Williams .....	UITs-Services

# 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Thomas Dailey.....	College of Education & Health Professions
Sunae Euell.....	Bursar's Office
Courtney George.....	Dept. of English
Kimberly Gill .....	Policy, Justice & Public Safety
Michael Johnson.....	Coca-Cola Space Science Center
Ben Kamau.....	College of Letters & Sciences
Elizabeth Klar .....	Dept. of Biology
Yuichiro Komatsu .....	Dept. of Art
Brandon Lindley.....	UTS-Services
Matthew McCabe.....	Schwob School of Music
Ellen McDaniel.....	Student Health
Gisung Moon.....	Accounting & Finance
Chelsey Pickrell .....	Plant Operations
Joe Sanders .....	Dept. of Art
Nehal Shukla .....	Dept. of Mathematics
Sridhar Sitharaman .....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Rylan Steele .....	Dept. of Art
Gena Stone.....	University Advancement
John Teasley .....	University Police
Brooke Thompson.....	School of Nursing
Susan Tomkiewicz .....	Schwob School of Music
Carey Wilkerson .....	Dept. of English
Jianhua Yang .....	TSYS Dept. of Computer Science

# 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Stephanie Adams.....	School of Nursing
Wesley Barron.....	UITS-Services
Estel Bouyer.....	University Police
Jan Burcham.....	College of Education & Health Professions
Randall Casleton.....	Dept. of Mathematics
Vickey Davenport.....	Custodial Services
Kyong Jeon.....	Dept. of English
Michelle Jones.....	Library
Debby Mayo.....	Shared Administrative Services
Timothy McGraw.....	Dept. of Theatre
William Muse.....	Dept. of Mathematics
Samuel Styers.....	Mens Baseball
Daniel Van Kley.....	Dept. of History, Geography & Philosophy
Kristin Williams.....	Enrollment Services

# 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marie Grandison.....	Center for Accommodation & Access
LaWanna Hayes.....	Business Office
Susan Hrach.....	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Eugen Ionascu.....	Dept. of Mathematics
Paulina Kuforiji.....	Teacher Ed, Leadership & Counseling
Carolyn Rockeymore.....	Custodial Services
Raymond Tankersley.....	Coca-Cola Space Science Center

# 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Anna Brooks.....	Business Office
Amanda Hawkins.....	School of Nursing
Joseph McCallus.....	Dept. of English
Neal Thomson.....	Management & Marketing



# 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Nancy Marino..... Office of the President

## RETIREES

Timothy Howard ..... Vice Provost, Office of the Provost  
Susan Hoskins..... Collaborative Pianist, Schwob School of Music  
Janet Jamieson ..... Administrative Specialist III, Shared Administrative Services  
Shelby Kellin ..... Graphics Technician, Printing Services  
Shamim Khan ..... Department Chair / Professor, Computer Science  
Barbara Lukkarinen ..... Accountant III, University Advancement  
James McHenry..... Interim Provost, Office of the Provost  
Richard Newtonson..... Professor, Society, Culture, & Languages  
Victor Salazar..... Director, Ivey Center, Ivey Center  
Marla Smith..... Associate Director, Student Financial Services / Bursar, Office of the Bursar  
Jeffrey Zuiderveen ..... Professor, Biology

## EMERITUS

Jong Ha ..... Department of Management & Marketing  
Jim Owen..... Department of English  
Thomas McCormack ..... Department of Counseling, Foundations and Leadership

# L.I.V.E. CSU

What is L.I.V.E. CSU? L.I.V.E. CSU is Columbus State University's internal leadership development program for faculty and staff. L.I.V.E. CSU was created to help faculty and staff L.I.V.E. out what it means to be part of Columbus State University. Through this programming, attendees Learn, Invest, Value and Engage with colleagues as they work to identify, explore and improve their leadership style.

There are four programs: Essentials, Elev8, Emerge, and LeadCSU. Below you will find a list of our employees who completed at least one of the four L.I.V.E. CSU programs during the 2023-2024 year.

## CLASS OF 2023



### LEAD CSU

Ehab Bedir  
Jillian Carroll  
Armando Fernandez  
Sarah Floyd  
Daniel Holt  
Lauren Johnson  
Donnie Phillips  
Mahmut Reyhanoglu  
Erica Taylor  
Jessica VanValkenburgh

### ELEV8

John Wright

# CLASS OF 2023

## EMERGE

Bailey Brado  
Jennifer Lovelace

## ESSENTIALS

Eric Avant  
Wesley Barron  
Ameerah Bello  
Victoria Buchanan  
William Burgan  
Katherine Cannon  
Jillian Carroll  
Brennan Gonzalez  
Alan Haas  
Whitley Hall  
Lillian Harrell  
Ross Hodge  
Ahnna Hurley  
Margaret McCollum  
Ellen McDaniel  
Margaret McIntyre  
Clay Miller  
Nicole Minneman  
Destinee Rouse  
Leila Sayedzada  
Amanda Watson  
Jamal Watson  
Chaylen Wilson



# STAFF AWARDS

## PRESIDENT'S STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes faculty members who have contributed outstanding professional service to the university and/or the community during a recent period including the current academic year.

Staff employee who demonstrates consistently outstanding performance in their position and who contributes to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Excellence.

### NICOL LEWIS

*Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Legal Affairs, Ethics, & Compliance*

Nicol Lewis is described as embodying the qualities of exemplary leadership, dedication, and professionalism that is integral to CSU's success. She has consistently demonstrated this in the many initiatives she has implemented to foster a culture of security and privacy awareness, strengthening information security governance and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. An increase in staff, faculty and student engagement with security initiatives has led to a measurable decrease in security incidents attributed to human error and an enhanced ability to recognize and report potential risks or threats, reflecting a collective commitment to upholding the highest of standards of data protection throughout our community. Nicol also has an outstanding commitment to personal professional development, surpassing the milestone of accumulating more than 50 hours of continuing education credits and obtaining recertification of industry credentials.

## STAFF INNOVATION AWARD

Staff employee(s) who develops an innovation which contributes to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Creativity.

### TAKEIA MOSALA

*Contracts Manager & Policy Coordinator, Office of Legal Affairs, Ethics, & Compliance*

As a legal assistant, Takeia Mosala has consistently demonstrated a remarkable ability to identify creative solutions, enhance the quality of services, streamline processes and actively participate in broader community improvement efforts. Takeia stands out in her efforts to identify creative solutions regarding the Legal Affairs virtual training sessions. By incorporating multiple presenters and adopting solution-based approaches, Takeia has significantly enhanced accessibility and engagement for students, staff and faculty.

# STAFF COLLABORATION AWARD

Staff employee(s) who collaborates with another department, internal university group, or external entity in a way that contributes to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Inclusion.

## UITS ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE & DEVELOPMENT TEAM: KEITH GRIER, ANAIYA COOK, WESLEY BARRON

The UITS Enterprise Software and Development Team and their dedication to the success of Enrollment Management and the Office of the Registrar clearly demonstrates collaboration across departments. Keith Grier, Anaiya Cook and Wesley Barron met weekly with Student Accounts and the Registrar to help improve their processes and reporting. With their positive and approachable demeanors, Keith, Anaiya and Wesley contribute significantly to a productive working environment. Their innovative solutions to streamline processes and enhance efficiencies have resulted in time savings and reduced the amount of paper used for the Registrar's office.

# STAFF COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AWARD

Staff employee who has provided consistently superior service within the University and has gone above and beyond in their actions in a way that contributes to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Servant Leadership.

## VELINA CAREY

*Residence Life Coordinator*

As the residence life coordinator at Clearview Hall, Velina Carey provides mentorship for up to 20 student staff members and oversees a community that houses up to 546 students. Through this position, she creates programs and opportunities that build community and positive experiences that shape our student experiences at CSU. This year alone, she has arranged 23 programs for residents, with many events drawing close to 100 students. Velina goes the "extra mile" in the customer service she provides to the resident students and their parents or guardians and often participates in campus-wide initiatives such as Discovery Days, Orientation events, Homecoming, and so much more. Velina is the smiling face at the Resident Life main desk and oversees the Clearview Hall community front desk. She oversees the community's intentional interactions that help ensure students' wellbeing and provides resources to students. Velina connects our students to the university and truly embodies the servant leader attitude.

# STAFF ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Staff employee who becomes or is already engaged within the University and/or community in a way which contributes to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Engagement.

## SYDNEY FRAZIER

*Academic Support Assistant*

Sydney Frazier lives the mission of CSU and the Department of Communication. Her work for the department is central to everything that happens there. She is often one of the first people students and external guests interact with when reaching out to the department on a daily basis. Sydney often helps faculty with their needs and ensures the unit runs smoothly. Sydney also works hard behind the scenes to ensure the effective operation of the department, their events and manages the schedule for the department functions. Sydney is a recent graduate of the communications department and is currently a student in the MA Communications program.

# STAFF AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Staff employee(s) who contributes in a significant way to advancing and promoting the University's core value of Sustainability.

## SGT. CHRISTOPHER BRYANT

*Sergeant, University Police*

Sgt. Christopher Bryant has played a pivotal role in implementing the UPD Bike Patrol Program. He sought out Uptown Columbus vendors to acquire the E-Bikes and equipment at a reduced cost, saving over half the cost of starting the program. Additionally, the Bike Patrol Program saves fuel costs and increases response times to emergency calls. Having the Bike Patrol Program has improved the safety of our campus community by allowing officers to patrol areas not accessible by vehicle. Sgt. Bryant took the initiative to find funding and started the program, which was completely outside the scope of his job duties. His efforts have greatly enhanced the university community.



# FACULTY AWARDS

## EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE TEACHING

JOSHUA BROOKS, PHD

*Associate Professor of Finance, Department of Accounting & Finance*

Dr. Joshua Brooks excels in online teaching with a strong commitment to student success. Employing innovative strategies, he fosters an enriching learning environment, combining effective instructional methods with genuine rapport. Through proactive professional development, including seminars on metacognition, Joshua continually enhances his teaching methodologies. He exemplifies a commitment to data-informed teaching practices, regularly assessing and adjusting his approaches based on student feedback. His dedication extends to the well-being of his students, evident in his efforts to create a supportive community. Joshua communicates regularly, utilizing personal experiences, like the family garden project during lockdown, to foster connection. Dr. Brooks promotes collaboration among students, recognizing its importance in enhancing learning outcomes.

## FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

GUIHONG FAN, PHD

*Professor and Chair, Department of Mathematics*

Dr. Guihong Fan epitomizes dedication to scholarly pursuits at Columbus State University. Despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, Guihong remained steadfast in her quest for knowledge, securing grants from prestigious bodies such as the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy. Her contributions to mathematical biology, particularly her paper on COVID-19 that gained international acclaim, showcase her impact on global research. With 16 peer-reviewed publications and numerous presentations, Guihong's work reflects a deep commitment to advancing her field. Beyond research, she integrates her expertise into teaching, enriching student experiences and fostering a culture of inquiry. Her passion for discovery and excellence in academia inspire both colleagues and students alike, shaping the intellectual landscape of the university and beyond. Dr. Fan's achievements stand as a testament to the transformative power of dedicated scholarship.

# FACULTY SERVICE AWARD

KIMBERLY GILL, PHD

*Associate Professor, School of Policy, Justice, and Public Safety*

Dr. Kimberly Gill is highly regarded for her service and leadership in various roles within the university. Her extensive involvement as department chair and member of committees reflects her dedication to supporting students. Beyond academia she also contributes as the Faculty Athletics Representative and volunteers as a firefighter, demonstrating a rounded commitment to community service. Kimberly plays a role in guiding student organizations such as the Kappa Sigma Fraternity and CSU Model United Nations Team, nurturing skills for their future endeavors. Her active participation in committees such as the Credit for Prior Learning Taskforce underscores her advocacy for education and student achievement. Through her proposed policies aimed at breaking down barriers to student progress, Dr. Gill's impactful leadership positively influences campus life and the wider community.

# SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

CHANDLER PADGETT, DPN, APRN, FNP-C

*Assistant Professor, School of Nursing*

Dr. Chandler Padgett is widely recognized for her work in nursing education and consistently showcases a commitment to teaching and innovation. Her students consistently give her high marks for her teaching methods, highlighting her dedication to helping them learn. Chandler's proactive approach to designing courses ensures that students stay engaged and grasp concepts, as seen in her update of the opioid training module. In her role as the GoReact coordinator for the Family Nurse Practitioner program, she focuses on improving student feedback and assessment through technology. Outside of teaching settings Dr. Padgett emphasizes hands-on experiences by organizing field trips and advocating for nurses at both local and state levels. Her achievements, such as receiving the COEHP Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, recognize her impact on nursing education. Chandler's influence extends beyond the confines of her institution, is evident in her guest lectures, and the recognition she received as one of Georgia State University's top graduates. With a passion for her work and expertise in the field, she continues to shape the future of nursing education.

# TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

KERRI S. TAYLOR, PHD

*Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry*

A shining example of excellence in teaching at CSU, Dr. Kerri Taylor demonstrates an unwavering commitment to student success and inclusive education. Her innovative approaches, including flipped classrooms and project-based learning, engage students with different learning styles. Kerri's dedication goes above and beyond by mentoring students in undergraduate research projects and encouraging them to think critically while improving their presentation skills. Notably, she developed assisted learning modules for visually impaired learners, ensuring accessible education for all. Outside of the classroom, Kerri serves as a CSU representative for High Impact Practices implementation and contributes extensively to various teaching initiatives. Her achievements, including the Governors Teaching Fellow and Young Chemist Committee Leadership Development Award, highlight her teaching effectiveness and excellence. Dr. Taylor's deep involvement in teaching across the College reflects her profound commitment to advancing the University's teaching mission and fostering an inclusive learning environment.

# TEACHING INNOVATION AWARD

RANIA HODHOD, PHD

*Professor, Edwin and Florette Rothschild Chair of Computer Science*

Dr. Rania Hodhod is recognized as a visionary educator who is reshaping the way students learn. She incorporates methods such as gamification, global exposure, and advanced technology to create an lively classroom atmosphere. Rania's "Escape the Room" challenge promotes critical thinking while her utilization of AI-powered webcams and international partnerships enrich the experience. Her teaching strategies are known for their clarity and effectiveness in catering to diverse student needs, earning admiration from both students and colleagues. By implementing evidence-based approaches such as research and impactful collaborations, Dr. Hodhod consistently improves student learning outcomes. The accomplishments of her students, including awards at conferences and academic recognitions, reflect the impact of her teaching techniques. Her dedication to enhancing teaching innovation truly distinguishes her as a leader in advancing education.



# CHAPPELL GRADUATE AWARD

YESEM PEKER, PHD

*Professor of Computer Science, Interim Director, Graduate School*

Dr. Yesem Peker has significantly enriched the graduate student experience at CSU through her exemplary teaching, guidance in student research, and dedicated service to graduate education at both departmental and university levels. As the CSU's interim director of the graduate school, she has gained valuable perspectives on graduate affairs, enabling her to champion the needs of graduate students effectively. Over the past three years, Yesem has contributed her expertise to four master's thesis committees and one doctoral dissertation committee. In 2022, she played a pivotal role in securing the National Security Agency's reaffirmation of Columbus State University as a Center of Academic Excellence for Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) for an additional five years. This recognition underscores the excellence of the School of Computer Science's master's program in cybersecurity at CSU. Achieving this esteemed status involves extensive efforts in data gathering and report writing on various aspects such as graduate curriculum, faculty qualifications, institutional details, and student outcomes. Dr. Peker's remarkable contributions to graduate education, innovative teaching methodologies, engagement with the broader academic community, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence render her an outstanding candidate deserving of this award.







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