

# 2024-25 ACADEMIC SENATE TEACHER APPRECIATION & AWARDS LUNCHEON

**MAY 27, 2025**

Criminal Justice Training Center MPR 100

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Lunch



## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Presented by Pete Bouzar & Justin Smith, Academic Senate Vice Presidents

**GWC Teacher of the Year**  
**Damien Jordan, Counselor**

**Academic Senate Award for Teaching Excellence**  
**Rene Scheys, English-PT**  
Awarded to a Part-time Faculty Member

## ACADEMIC SENATE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Presented by Damien Jordan, Academic Senate President & Pete Bouzar, Academic Senate Vice President

**Damien Jordan**  
Academic Senate President

**Pete Bouzar**  
Academic Senate Vice President

**Justin Smith**  
Academic Senate Vice President

## FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Excellence in Leadership & Service Award (ELSA)

Presented by Damien Jordan, Academic Senate President

**Amy Jennings, Psychology**

**Shawn Taylor, Mathematics**

**Aleksandra Uchlik, Accounting | Nominee**

### Peer Excellence in Teaching - Recognized by GWC Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans, and Managers

Presented by Kate Green, IPD Chair & Amy Jennings, Faculty Excellence Awards Liaison

**Kyle Smith, Psychology**

**Sylvia Henel, ESL-PT**

### Excellence in Teaching - Recognized by Classified Staff

Presented by Kate Green, IPD Chair & Amy Jennings, Faculty Excellence Awards Liaison

**Michelle Sambrano, Counseling EOPS**

**Erin Craig, Mathematics | Nominee**

### Innovation Award – Recognized by GWC Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans, and Managers

Presented by Kate Green, IPD Chair & Amy Jennings, Faculty Excellence Awards Liaison

**James Almy, Chemistry**

∞ Excellence in Teaching ~ Recognized by ASGWC ∞

Presented by Samantha Sarmiento ▪ ASGWC & Kate Green, IPD Chair ▪ Amy Jennings, FEA Liaison

**Teresa Nguyen, ELL/ESL/GED**

**Rene Scheys, English-PT**

NOMINEES

Jeanette Adame, History  
Gita Alemansour, Mathematics  
James Almy, Chemistry  
Bern Baumgartner, Business  
Bud Benneman, Geology  
Kirsten Berg, Geography-PT  
Dawn Brooks, Music  
Katie Bruns, Communication Studies  
Jodie Butler, Psychology  
Ruth Cálcanas, Sociology  
Matthew Carlson, Chemistry  
Berlynn Ching, Nursing  
Keisha Cosand, English  
Annamaria Crescimanno, Biology  
Natalie Dalton, Nursing  
Kay Dutz, Physical Science  
Laura Duvall, Psychology  
AJ Edmonds, Computer Science  
Catherine Egan, Biology  
Doreen Fioretto, Education  
Nancy Fong, Counseling  
Cecilia Galassi, English  
Armando Garcia, Counseling EOPS  
Denise Gonzalez Bon, Counseling DSPS  
Katherine Green, Chemistry  
Jacob Hamrick, Automotive Technology  
Connie Heavener, Cosmetology-PT  
Derrick Hernandez, Nursing-PT  
Jon Holland, Cosmetology  
Ric Jara, Chemistry-PT  
Amy Jennings, Psychology  
Andrew Kang, Mathematics-PT  
Heather Kelley, Communication Studies  
Maryam Khakbazan, Math  
Ellen Kim, Music  
Gary Kirby, Math  
Victor Kowalski, Biology-PT  
MaryLynne LaMantia, Biology  
Alexander Letourneau, Chemistry-PT

Noah Levin, Philosophy  
Lindsay Lewis, Mathematics  
Michelle Luster, ELL-PT  
Sima Manafi, Mathematics-PT  
Heather Manley, Biology-PT  
Mike McCarthy, Criminal Justice  
Sunshine McClain, History  
Barbara Miyadi, Nursing  
Victoria Nelson, Nursing  
Tony Nguyen, Art-PT  
Bill Nguyen, Mathematics-PT  
Jimmy Nguyen, Counseling  
Phuong Nguyen, Nursing  
Carrie Ohm, Art-PT  
Micha Gonzalez-Phelps, Cosmetology-PT  
Nikki Plaster, Biology  
Cristian Racataian, Computer Science  
Amy Rangel, Nursing  
Shatarupa Ray, Biology  
Stephen Ruatta, Chemistry-PT  
Tiffany Ruggeri-Dilello, Communication Studies-PT  
Michelle Sambrano, Counseling EOPS  
Matthew Shimazu, Chemistry  
Elizabeth Shiroishi, English  
Herman Singh, Economics  
Kyle Smith, Psychology  
Natalie Stone, Math  
Stephanie Tanio, Biology  
Scott Taylor, Athletics  
Paul Tayyar, English  
Amy Thach, Nursing  
Joshua Thompson, Physical Science-PT  
Tammie Tran, World Languages  
Mike Tsai, Photography-PT  
Aleksandra Uchlik, Accounting  
Travis Vail, Biology  
Nam Vu, Biology  
Derrick Watkins, Criminal Justice  
Rachel Wegter, Communication Studies



## ❧ APPRECIATION AWARDS ❧

### ❧ Dedication to Service Recognition ❧

Presented by Damien Jordan, Academic Senate President

Martie Ramm Engle, Co-Chair – Budget Council	Bill La, Co-Chair - IEC
Jason Shely, Co-Chair – DEIA Committee	Kate Green, Chair – Faculty Excellence Awards
Denice Koen, Director of Public Safety	Amy Jennings, Liaison – Faculty Excellence Awards
Rick Hicks, Vice President of Administrative Services	Michael Tran, Counselor - Transfer Center Coordinator
Erin Craig, CIL Coordinator – Flex Day	Sacha Moore, Professor of English – Flex Day
Uyen Tran, Professional Development Training & Development Specialist – Flex Day	



## ❧ ACADEMIC SENATE ❧

Presented by Damien Jordan, Academic Senate President

### ❧ Introduction of 2025-26 Executive Board ❧

Justin Smith, President	Annamaria Crescimanno, Vice President
Damien Jordan, Vice President	Jennifer Bailly, CCI Chair
Kate Green, IPD Chair	

### ❧ Exemplary Committee Service Recognition ❧

Jennifer Bailly, CCI Chair	Nikki Nguyen, Classified Professionals
Amanda Best, Art	Phuong Nguyen, Nursing & Health Professions
Pete Bouzar, Vice President & Mathematics/Engineering	Teresa Nguyen, ELL/ESL/GED
Dawn Brooks, Performing Arts	Cat Ponsford, Cosmetology-PT
Annamaria Crescimanno, Biological Sciences	Joel Powell, Social Science
Laura Duvall, Psychology	Tiffany Ruggeri-Dilello, Part-time Faculty At-Large
Matthew Flesher, Kinesiology, Health, Athletics, PE	Samantha Sarmiento, ASGWC
Kate Green, IPD Chair	Matthew Shimazu, Physical Sciences
Damien Jordan, President & Counseling	Justin Smith, History & Education
John Kasabian, Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, Drafting	Julie Terrazas, Library
Heather Kelley, Communication Studies	Tammie Tran, World Languages & Sign Language
Theresa Lavarini, English	Aleksandra Uchlick, Business & Accounting
Noah Levin, Liberal Arts & Culture	Derrick Watkins, Criminal Justice



## ❧ COUNCIL FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION ❧

Presented by Jennifer Bailly, CCI Chair & Pete Bouzar, Academic Senate Vice President

### ❧ Leadership Service Recognition ❧

Jennifer Bailly, CCI Chair	Nicole Diamond, Articulation Officer
Charissa McCord, Curriculum Specialist	

❧ Distinguished Service Awards ❧

Leilani Johnson, Kinesiology, Health, Athletics – 12 years  
John Kasabian, Automotive Technology, Digital Arts, Drafting – 8 years

Cristian Racataian, Computer Science – 13 years  
Cathy Le, Library – 12 years

Michael Valinluck, Biological Sciences – 12 years  
Ashley Berry, Part-time Faculty – 3 years

❧ Exemplary Committee Service Recognition ❧

Jeanette Adame, History & Education  
Berlynn Ching, Nursing & Health Professions  
Dawn Brooks, Performing Arts  
Jodie Butler, Psychology  
Ruth Cálcanas, Sociology  
Matthew Carlson, Physical Sciences  
Christy Banales, Student Services  
Kristy Ho, Counseling & EOPS  
Jon Holland, Cosmetology

Gary Kirby, Mathematics  
Tiffany Lao, ELL/ESL/GED  
Mike McCarthy, Criminal Justice  
Michelle Palma, Liberal Arts & Culture  
Veronica Pizano, World Languages/Sign Language  
Tiffany Ruggeri-Dilello, Communication Studies-PT  
Mujib Tahir, English  
Rachel Zacharia, Business & Accounting



❧ GWC COORDINATORS ❧

Presented by Damien Jordan, Academic Senate President

Kristy Ho, Competency-Based Education Coordinator  
Damien Jordan, Accreditation Co-Chair Coordinator  
John Kasabian, Automotive American Honda Coordinator  
Sacha Moore, GWC Title V Grant Project/STEM Coordinator  
Phuong Nguyen, Nursing Assistant Director/Coordinator  
Joel Powell, Umoja Coordinator  
Evangelina Rosales, Esthetics/Cosmetology Coordinator  
Tiffany Ruggeri-Dilello, ZTC/OER Coordinator  
Amy Thach, SLO Coordinator  
Michelle Veyette, Distance Education & POCR Coordinator



Academic Senate Meeting