



STARS

8th Annual Special Thanks and Recognition of Service
Rewards and Recognition Program

Achieving Excellence

December 13, 2021 | Office of Human Resources



A Joint Message from the NJCU President and the Chair of the NJCU Foundation Board

Dear NJCU Faculty and Staff,

We are delighted to welcome each of you to New Jersey City University's 7th Annual Special Thanks and Recognition of Service (STARS) Program. The STARS program was introduced in 2014 as a way to recognize and highlight the exceptional work done by employees of the University. NJCU has enjoyed a long-standing tradition of excellence, and we continue to exceed expectations because of the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff.

Thus, the STARS Program provides an ideal opportunity for the NJCU community to celebrate individuals who have demonstrated outstanding work during the past year as well as those who have worked collectively within their divisions to enhance the University and its mission.

The STARS Program also enables us to recognize our recent NJCU retirees, acknowledge the service of current employees who have reached milestone anniversaries for the current year. The ongoing commitment of this dedicated team is evident in all that we do—from the awards that we receive, to the students who succeed, and the alumni who become leaders in their chosen fields.

Therefore, it is our great pleasure to thank the 2021 honorees for their excellence. In addition, we extend our thanks to the NJCU Foundation Board for its support of this important event.

Regards,

Sue Henderson,
President, NJCU

Peter Hernandez
Chair, NJCU Foundation



Program Objective

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) Special Thanks and Recognition of Service (STARS) program is designed to recognize and distinguish employees who have demonstrated continued dedication and commitment to the University through length of service and outstanding performance. The program combines the two recognition programs already in place; the annual Service Awards Program, and provides additional recognition awards based on excellence in job performance.

Individuals and/or teams to be considered are those that have made significant contributions during the current year that promote the University's strategic goals:

- I. Enhancing academic excellence
- II. Achieving academic, personal, and social success for all our students
- III. Securing vital resources to enhance our capacity for excellence
- IV. Establishing NJCU as a leading partner in the growth of Jersey City and beyond

The STARS program also recognizes employees who consistently advance the NJCU mission *"to provide a diverse population with an excellent university education. The University is committed to the improvement of the educational, intellectual, cultural, socio-economic, and physical environment of the surrounding urban region and beyond."*



Special Thanks and Recognition of Service (STARS) Program

Opening

Mr. Ira Thor, *Senior Director of University Communications & Media Relations*

Welcome

Dr. Sue Henderson, *President, NJCU*

Presentation of Employee Recognition Awards

Mr. Ira Thor, *Senior Director of University Communications & Media Relations*

- * Hidden Hero— Lourdes Sutton, *College of Education, Dean's Office*
- * Top Knight— Veronica Garcia, *SOAR*

Recognition and Photograph of Retirees

NJCU Foundation Board Member

Acknowledgment of Service Awardees and Fitness Challenge

NJCU Foundation Board Member

Acknowledgements and Closing Remarks

Aaron Aska, *Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Operations and Innovation*

Awards

Hidden Hero Award

This award recognizes an employee who has shown outstanding achievement by providing tireless service to the community behind the scenes. This individual's productivity, high caliber of work, leadership, and attitude have motivated others to excel.

Presidential Award—Top Knight

Top Knight is an award given to an individual who has served as a model to our community, and has exhibited an attitude of excellence and professionalism while carrying out duties. This employee has shown independent thinking, good judgment, interest in self-development, and a desire to work beyond the limits of a job description. By his or her actions, this individual personifies the mission of our University.

Retirees

Retiree	Title	Department	Years
Jay Berman	Criminal Justice	Academic Affairs	39
Jennifer Brower	University Advancement	University Advancement	11
William Craven	Accounting	Academic Affairs	31
Abisola Gallagher	Counseling Center	Student Affairs	30
Jennifer Jones	Career Planning and Placement	Academic Affairs	42
Romulo Orejudos	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations & Innovation	26
Jose Santamaria	Construction Mgmt-External	Operations & Innovation	9
Annamarie Scrazati	Philosophy and Religion	Academic Affairs	17
Ivan Steinberg	Economics	Academic Affairs	51
Vera Superville	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations & Innovation	19
Ashok Vaseashta	Grants Office	Academic Affairs	3
Robert Foster	Media Arts Center	Academic Affairs	34
Denise Melendez	Professional Security Studies	Academic Affairs	23
Luis Morales	Payroll	Finance & Treasury	18
Phillip Patrick	FCM—Maintenance Services	Operations & Innovation	25

Retirees

Retiree	Title	Department	Years
Arenas Edwin	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs	33
Sandra Caravella	Mathematics	Academic Affairs	16
Michelle Hayes-Venable	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs	31
Frances Levin	Literacy Education	Academic Affairs	23
Adela Martinez	ESL	Academic Affairs	37
Shereen Rahaman	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations & Innovation	25
Connie Yu	Computer Science	Academic Affairs	19
Lynn Zisa	M.Jerry Weiss Center	Academic Affairs	9
Nilsa Soler-Rosas	Security and Safety	Operations & Innovation	26
Hugo Tejada	FCM—Maintenance Services	Operations & Innovation	26
David Howard	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs	33
Maxcel James	Security and Safety	Operations & Innovation	23
Raynard Branigan	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations & Innovation	16
Robert Piaskowsky	Human Resources	Operations & Innovation	25
Xiaoli Fang	Library Services	Academic Affairs	21
Alissa Koval-Dhaliwal	Counseling Center	Student Affairs	25
Carol Stephens	Counselor Education	Academic Affairs	25
Eve Harrinauth	Security and Safety	Operations & Innovation	25

Fitness Cha

Fitness Challenge Program Objective

Purpose of the Program

The New Jersey City University (NJCU) Fitness Challenge is a program designed to promote health and wellness for faculty, staff and students. By tracking steps, participants can motivate and challenge one another to increase daily steps to meet their personal health and fitness goals.

The Fitness Challenge was introduced in 2017 as a way to engage the NJCU community to lead a healthier lifestyle. Staff, faculty and students are strongly encouraged to join the program.

Faculty & Staff

5 weeks challenge
42 employees
Total steps
6,946,046

Students

6 weeks challenge
61 students
Total steps
5,205,320

For a grand total of 102 Participants and **12,151,366 steps**.

llange





SERVICE AWARDS EMPLOYEES



45 Years of Service

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Susan Iwanowski	Dean of Art and Science	Academic Affairs

*Awards are given in five-year intervals and are presented the calendar year after the five-year service period is complete.

40 Years of Service

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
James Brown	Library Services	Academic Affairs
Loretta Davis-Murray	Registrar	Student Services
Allan De Fina	Literacy Education	Academic Affairs

40

35 Years of Service

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Christine Bruno	Career Planning and Placement	Academic Affairs
Paul Gargiulo	Marketing & Communications	University Advancement
Patricia Holzman	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
John Melendez	Educational Leadership	Academic Affairs

35

30 Years of Service

30

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Liza Fiol-Matta	Women's Studies	Academic Affairs
Kenneth Good	Sociology and Anthropology	Academic Affairs
Linda Griffin	Construction Mgmt-External	Operations and Innovation
Norma Mccloud	Early Childhood Education	Academic Affairs
Francis Moran	Political Science	Academic Affairs
Godwin Ohiwerei	Sociology and Anthropology	Academic Affairs
Anna Pryor	Online Learning	Academic Affairs
Joe Rodriguez	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Jay Smaw	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Rosemary Thurston	History	Academic Affairs

25 Years of Service 25

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Timothy Stuckey	Art	Academic Affairs
Jose Balda	Admissions	Student Services
Gilles Bernard	Music Dance	Academic Affairs
Rickey Campbell	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Sabato Caporrino	FCM—Grounds/Landscaping	Operations and Innovation
George Deaver	Athletics	University Advancement
Donna Farina	Multicultural Center	Academic Affairs
Margaret Garvey	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Andrew Getzfeld	Psychology	Academic Affairs
John Grew	Biology	Academic Affairs
Willie Holly	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Thomas Lee II	Athletics	University Advancement
Winifred McNeill	Art	Academic Affairs
Laura Pannaman	Biology	Academic Affairs
Alberto Pinkas	Physics	Academic Affairs
Ellen Quinn	Art	Academic Affairs
Muriel Rand	Early Childhood Education	Academic Affairs
Sergio Villamizar	Athletics	University Advancement
Kenneth Yamaguchi	Chemistry	Academic Affairs

20 Years of Service

20

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Jennifer Aitken	Office of Specialized Services	Academic Affairs
Angela Arriaza-Jarquín	Registrar	Student Services
Botros Botros	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Ethan Bumás	English	Academic Affairs
Evelin Candelario	Admissions	Student Services
Christopher Cofone	Career Planning and Placement	Academic Affairs
Dennis Dittrich	Art	Academic Affairs
Barbara Drew	University Advisement Center	Academic Affairs
Xiaoli Fang	Library Services	Academic Affairs
Randi Fontanez	University Advisement Center	Academic Affairs
Gustavo Garcia	FCM—Grounds/Landscaping	Operations and Innovation
Kareem Germaine	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Leslie Graham-Wilson	Opportunity Scholarship Prgm	Student Services
Hanae Haouari	Chemistry	Academic Affairs
Tan Lin	English	Academic Affairs
Tracy Matos	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Kim Mazyck	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Andrew McCabe	Special Education	Academic Affairs
Jessica McKenzie	Marketing & Communications	University Advancement
Diana McLean	Registrar	Student Services

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
James Musante	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Marcin Ramocki	Media Arts Center	Academic Affairs
Florencio Rivera	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Christopher Shamburg	Educational Technology	Academic Affairs
Beimnet Teclezghi	Mathematics	Academic Affairs
Ira Thor	Marketing & Communications	University Advancement
David Watson	FCM—Maintenance Services	Operations and Innovation

15 Years of Service

15

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Cindy Arrigo	Biology	Academic Affairs
Helen Bongon	Mathematics	Academic Affairs
Raynard Branigan	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Alyssa Casazza	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Zhixiong Chen	Mathematics	Academic Affairs
Sharon Coaxum	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Hernan Delgado	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Mariana Diaz	Bursar Office	Finance and Treasury
Divendra Etwaroo	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Darren Fisher	Art	Academic Affairs

15 Years of Service

15

Continued

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Danny Guevara	A. Harry Moore School	Academic Affairs
Rosa Gutierrez	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Michael Hunter	Fleet Management	Operations and Innovation
Deborah Jack	Art	Academic Affairs
Jeong Kim	Multicultural Center	Academic Affairs
John Laski	Management	Academic Affairs
Woodrow Lewis Jr.	Dean of Students	Student Services
George Li	Finance	Academic Affairs
Anthony Lofton	Art	Academic Affairs
Erik Morales	Elementary/Secondary Edu.	Academic Affairs
Zandile Nkabinde	Special Education	Academic Affairs
Maxine Perkins	Health & Wellness Center	Student Services
Mary Robinson	Dean School of Business	Academic Affairs
Michael Rotenberg-Schwartz	English	Academic Affairs
Karen Ruiz	Bursar Office	Finance and Treasury
Jenell Santiago	Business Services	Operations and Innovation
Ritu Shastri	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Jinfen Shi	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Rosemary Tavares	Controller's Office	Finance and Treasury
Malvanie Williams	Campus Life	Student Services
Inki Yi	Facilities & Construction Mgmt.	Operations and Innovation

10 Years of Service

10

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Deatra Ashley	Dean School of Business	Academic Affairs
Nurdan Aydin	VP of Academic Affairs	Academic Affairs
Madelynne DelaRama	Marketing & Communications	University Advancement
Susan Gerber	Institutional Effectiveness	President
Craig Katz	International Student Adviseme	Academic Affairs
Tricia Koufodontis	Child Care Center	Student Services
Ida Masa	Center for Student Success	Student Services
Alison Maysilles	Enrollment Management	Student Services
Jane McClellan	Alumni Relations	University Advancement
Frank Nascimento	Psychology	Academic Affairs
Renee Robinson	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Sandra Scott	FCM—Housekeeping	Operations and Innovation
Kirsten Sejda	Art	Academic Affairs
Patrick Silverthorne	FCM—Maintenance Services	Operations and Innovation
Theresa Spataro	Dean of Professional Studies	Academic Affairs
Daniel Ward	Online Learning	Academic Affairs
Iris Wilcox	Facilities & Construction Mgmt	Operations and Innovation

5 Years of Service

5

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Danielle Beam	Athletics	University Advancement
Andrew Bossie	Economics	Academic Affairs
Gunhan Caglayan	Mathematics	Academic Affairs
Isabel Casais	Dean School of Business	Academic Affairs
Stephany Aracelly Castellanos	Child Care Center	Student Services
Deanna Cooper	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Ivelisse Cruz	AVP of Student Affairs	Student Services
Ricardo Diaz	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Venessa Garcia	Criminal Justice	Academic Affairs
Andre Maurice Grant	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Ronald Hurley	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Jayadhurganandh Jayaraman	Finance	Academic Affairs
Priscilla Jesudian	Information Technology	Operations and Innovation
Shanda Johnson	Nursing	Academic Affairs
Jimmy Lau	Registrar	Student Services
EunSu Lee	Management	Academic Affairs

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	DIVISION
Yung Wei Lin	Counselor Education	Academic Affairs
Ashley Lyon	Art	Academic Affairs
Gail Annette Marquis	Development Office	University Advancement
Amanda McGee	Business Services	Operations and Innovation
Karla Mejia	Athletics	University Advancement
Amit Jayant Mokashi	Management	Academic Affairs
Virginia J. Ochoa-Winemiller	Latin American Studies	Academic Affairs
Eliyphaz Rivers	Security and Safety	Operations and Innovation
Benjamin Rohdin	VP of Student Affairs	Student Services
Kerolos Rophail	Dean of Students Orientation	Student Services
Arlene Rusak	Business Services	Operations and Innovation
Andrea Spencer	President's Office	President
Matthew Sutton	Opportunity Scholarship Program	Student Services
Zhimin Wang	Finance	Academic Affairs
Yufeng Wei	Chemistry	Academic Affairs
Mingshan Zhang	Accounting	Academic Affairs



Rewards & Recognition Committee

Michelle Scott-Crook • Randi Miller • Ella Rue • Walter Nugent •
Kurt Gryzb • Michael Sims • Cinthia Diaz • Paul Robertson •
Bernadette Schery • Autumn Reed • Elizabeth Hickey



NJCU Foundation Board of Directors

Peter Hernandez, *Chair*

Edward O'Connor, *Vice Chair*

Andrea Ducas, *Secretary*

Stephen Hess, *Treasurer*

James White, *Assistant Treasurer*

Kwi Brennan, *Executive Director*

Robert Antonicello Chirag Patel '89, '15 (Hon.)

Natalie Brathwaite Dagmar Rosa-Bjorkeson

Alex Forrester '10 (Hon.) Paul Silverman

Sue Henderson, Ph.D. Aisha Thomas-Petit

Sang Jin Kim, Ph.D., Emeritus Luke Visconti '13 (Hon.), Emeritus

Carlos Lejniaks Timothy White '99

Alfred R. Parinello Judith Wodynski, '76, M.A. '77