National Student Employment Week

National Student Employment Week was established to increase public awareness of and recognize students who work while attending college. This year it will be held during the week of April 9-13, 2018. For the past twenty-five years, in conjunction with the National Student Employment Association, UIC has celebrated National Student Employment Week.

Upcoming Events

Info Booths
April 9, 10, 11, 2018
11:00am-2:00pm
SCE, Booth 1

Ice-cream for a JOB!
Ice Cream social event with Sparky to help kick off National Student Employment Week.
Monday, April 9, 2018
12:00pm-2:00pm
SCE, Booth 1

Finding Internships Workshop
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
3:30pm-5:00pm
SCE, Room 302

LinkedIn Lab and Photo Booth
Don’t forget to dress professionally and bring your laptop!
Thursday, April 12, 2018
3:30pm-5:00pm
SCE, Room 605

Careers in Helping Professions Workshop
Speakers will include a number of professionals from areas of social work, psychology, case management, higher education, and more!
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
3:30pm-5:00pm
SCE, Cardinal Room(329)
2018 Employee of the Year

Selected for excellence in reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism, and uniqueness of contribution to UIC as a student employee.

George Rico Juarez
Computer Specialist II - Student Affairs Technology
Nominated by: Richard Bernsee and Ray Allen

“From day one, we knew George was special. Every day, he would ask us questions about all things technology and IT. He learned quickly. He would digest the answer, understand the big picture, and ask us more challenging questions. Not only did these conversations help him develop, they also taught us more and made us grow as a department...He transformed our inventory system by ensuring devices loaned out were always up to date and charged...He would look at our asset management tool Lansweeper and would notice abnormalities...No one asked him to do this, he believed these things would help Student Affairs and make the environment better...

The work George performs qualifies him to be an SCCM Engineer outside of UIC...As he developed, Student Affairs Technology benefitted by maturing our environment which then benefitted Student Affairs...He does so much for our department without us asking and is genuinely a good person....In our eyes, he is beyond an all-star but the cog that unifies the spokes of the always spinning wheel of Student Affairs Technology.

[George] is not afraid to ask tough questions to SA technology staff on the development and implementation of new technologies as we encounter them. Because of this, we are better prepared to make better use of newer technology as it develops...He can easily step in and manage the helpdesk in absence of full time staff and often helps in the training of fellow student employees in the department...I feel that George is an extremely talented person, one who would fit the model of an employee of Student Affairs for many years to come.
2018 Student Employee All-Stars

The UIC Student Employee All-Stars Award was established to recognize, appreciate, and honor outstanding student employees. Students were nominated based on their outstanding performances in their positions at UIC.

**Sokratis Vasilas**  
General Office Aide/Attendant Supervisor – Athletics Advancement  
Nominated by: Amanda Mener

"[Sokratis] constantly surpasses my expectations and those of his job description day in-and day-out…[He] uniquely contributes to our unit because he is a jack-of-all-trades. For instance, he is a strong group leader, takes initiatives, is friendly, respectful, creative, and stays calm under pressure…Sokratis takes the initiative to complete tasks before I ask him, and always shows the utmost respect to me, and anyone around him…From top to bottom, Sokratis checks off every box of excellence…On top of working part-time, he is enrolled in 18 credit hours in the College of Business Administration as a Management major, maintains a 4.0 GPA, and is a Division I Athlete on the UIC Men’s Soccer team…His hard work ethic and positive demeanor is unparalleled by any other student worker I have had under my supervision at UIC."

**Nuha Abdelrahim**  
Research/Scientific Aide II – Pediatric Genetics  
Nominated by: Shannon O’Brien, Katherine Ingle, Krista Engen

"Nuha stands out as a nutrition student. The dieticians have come to rely on her heavily for help not only with diet analysis of our patients with very restrictive diets but also with hand-outs and educational materials…Nuha is easy to work with and takes instruction well. She’s creative and innovative and shares her ideas. She is able to take an idea and run with it. We appreciate her help and fresh ideas that she brings to patient care. [She] has a way of elevating everyone’s spirits in the office…Not a holiday goes by where she doesn’t do something sweet to recognize us whether with a funny personalized card or homemade treat…Her passion and enthusiasm for nutrition is evident in her approach to learning and assisting the dieticians."

**Ram Patel**  
General Office Assistant – Asian American Resource and Cultural Center  
Nominated by: Alyson Kung

"[Ram’s] coworkers and fellow students trust him and look up to him. He is always on time to work and takes pleasure in doing his job well. [His] position…is the community outreach coordinator. It is his job to connect with the organizations and groups that work with us for our Lunchbox series of events. This semester we, as a team, have ambitiously planned a Lunchbox event for nearly every week…, whereas previously it had been every other week. He has happily taken on that challenge and has done it well…Ram is extremely knowledgeable and patient…He makes sure to welcome new students and remembers returning students. His work has been integral to building a cohesive and welcoming community at UIC, between both students and organizations in Chicago. Ram has reached above and beyond expectations, while also juggling student organizational work and his pre-med track of classes and applications."
2018 Student Employee All-Stars

Iraí Elizarraraz
General Office Aide - Athletics
Nominated by: Kyle Decker

"Iraí started off as an intern doing fairly simple design work: basic game flyers and social media graphics...Now she not only designs flyers and social media graphics, but she also designs t-shirts, promotional items, game day signage and newsletters...By far Iraí’s biggest achievement has been her work in helping to grow the UIC Pyromaniacs. As president, Iraí has overseen the group’s entire re-brand and re-organization. Iraí has also made great strides in growing the Pyros and establishing a sustainable organization for years to come...[She] also manages every facet of the UIC Pyros app, from marketing to purchasing to inventory to content management. The app...now has nearly 6000 users...Her passion for Athletics and UIC in general is unmatched. She has influenced a pretty significant culture change in regards to the student body’s interaction with Athletics."

Giselle Legaspi
Accounting Aide - Asian American Resource and Cultural Center
Nominated by: Mark R. Martell

"When it comes to Giselle and her dedicated work at AARCC, the three following words come to mind: creative, organized, and reliant...As an AARCC student blogger, she created cultural content for the AARCCCorner blog. This process entails brainstorming with the other bloggers, researching topics or attending a cultural event, writing a piece on the topic or event, and the disseminating the piece on Facebook...I can attest that the investment Giselle puts in her investigation and writing exceeds any basic blog post...As a General Office Aide, she...was successful in organizing a year’s worth of paperwork and finding missing receipts and in creating a filing system that streamlined our auditing process...With a lack of our own business assistant administrator, Giselle has been instrumental in our bookkeeping and keeps AARCC financially ordered...She is a student employee whom I trust with sensitive documents...who pays attention to details...and who is reliant."

Michelle Luna
Library Aide II – Richard Daley Library
Nominated by: Osvaldo Villalpando, Elena Carrillo, Paula R. Dempsey, Brianna Magana, Henry Vo, Mozhdeh Khodarahmi, Ana M. Ortiz-Garcia

"Michelle demonstrates strong leadership skills when it comes to procedures and techniques. [She] has excellent customer service skills that she will treat everyone with care, courtesy, and concern...In her time at the front desk, Michelle consistently presents the welcoming and cheerful greeting that shows our users how much the Library wants to support their success...When she answers questions, she shows that each person's need is important, and she strives to provide accurate, prompt, and complete information...She is knowledgeable on her job duties and provides great customer service to patrons...She makes an effort to go above and beyond to do well while working in a workplace environment and juggling in between her classes...Our staff members describe her as "simply wonderful" and "a role model for all student workers"...She has dedication, dependability, awesome customer service and full of energy that can light up a room."
2018 Student Employee All-Stars

Zoha Sharif
General Office Assistant – Institute for Health Research and Policy
Nominated by: Lupe Orozco

"Zoha’s main responsibilities include updating and maintaining our employee leave database for over 60 full and part time AP employees...This managerial role is no easy assignment and takes an extreme amount of detail and follow-up and Zoha is primed for this incredibly important task. [She] has also been assigned to work on personnel reports involving a multitude of HR related data for summer salary processing, graduate reappointments and leave data and I have complete confidence in her ability to maintain this extremely important, complex, and confidential data...Zoha also has some responsibility for the onboarding of our new student employees...she is always there to help with whatever is needed...She has demonstrated excellent written and verbal communication skills and also has that “warm and fuzzy” HR personality that makes new and current employees feel welcomed whenever questions arise.

Kelsey Schmitt
Research/Scientific Aide II – Institute for Health Research and Policy
Nominated by: Dr. David DuBois

"Kelsey has been working...for almost 2 years as a Research Assistant here at the Institute at Health Research and Policy. The study Kelsey is working on requires reaching out to a large sample of over 1000 adults...Finding these individuals is difficult at best and engaging them effectively...requires patience, sensitivity, perseverance and – most importantly – a calm and upbeat demeanor. Kelsey has all of these characteristics in spades...[She] has a remarkable success rate with locating and engaging study participants, well beyond her peers...Kelsey shows an extraordinarily high level of initiative...and takes on any task without hesitation and stays positive throughout. [She] is a wonderful example that it is possible to perform at the highest level as both a student and employee through hard work and passion, enriching the UIC environment and the public’s view of the university in the process.

Alexandra Swanson
General Office Assistant – Institute for Health Research and Policy
Nominated by: Sabah Basrawi

"As an office assistant to a team of grant managers, Alexandra has shown thorough work discipline and cooperation...She brings forth the fortitude and devotion to spending her time at IHRP learning many of our financial aspects. Alexandra is always at the ready to not only learn new material but also help train any new student employees we have with our administration at IHRP. She goes above and beyond what is required and always delivers with great professionalism. She has been instrumental in establishing documentation for either creating a new work flow process or improving one. Alexandra takes her customer service duties to heart which is evident by the positive testimonials by many of our research staff at the institute. Alexandra's sense of responsibility and reliability is a true testament to her wonderful character. She has become an essential team member whom we rely on to accomplish many tasks...All in all, Alexandra Swanson is a genuinely caring, friendly, and amazing person to work with."
2018 Essay Contest Winners

These winners were recognized on their outstanding essays relaying the impact and value of their on-campus jobs and their professional development and skills acquired.

Brittany Beard
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“A naked man in my pool. 19 year old me, waking up at the first flush of morning to lifeguard at the student pool, plenty of schoolwork on my plate, and I am exposed to full frontal nudity as a man tries to enter the water...My first instincts are not pleasant: confusion, frustration, and intimidation overcome me. These emotions must be suppressed if I am to do what I was hired for. I put on my big girl pants and take over the situation calmly...Little did I know that this interaction was my first step in becoming the employee, student, and professional that I am today...My employment with Campus Recreation has been a whirlwind, and I have enjoyed every second. The good, the bad, the ugly, and the weird; it has all taught me more than I had ever expected out of a public school education. Because of my employment during my time at school, I am confident that I can tackle any obstacle.

Jessica Schmidt
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“As someone who currently holds three part-time jobs at UIC, I have come to quite the appreciative relationship with them. I am a Resident Advisor for Campus Housing, a tutor at the Writing Center, and a Special Collections Aide at the Daley Library. These various jobs have cultivated and nourished social, personal, and occupational skills in the current semester – skills that I know will shadow every aspect of my life and future...I have learned balance and prioritization between schoolwork and my jobs, and I have also learned to not be so unforgiving of myself if I mess up – mistakes are often essential to learning. These positions have forged ideal groundwork for my development into the future, and I hope to utilize what I have learned to assist my growth as well as the lives of others around me.

Madeline Nowak
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“My employment as a tutor has improved my communication skills, as I must introduce myself to new people, plan study blocks, and explain information in an effective and engaging manner. One of the most enjoyable aspects of this work has been expanding my own network, meeting other student athletes, and building a stronger community...Tutoring will aid my future profession as a nurse because it allows me to practice my dedication to high standards of work every day...My work as a tutor has never been a chore because the benefits are reciprocal and it is exciting to witness the academic progress my peers make. This love for learning drives me to continue tutoring and engaging in my studies so that I may attain my future goal of becoming a leading nurse in the healthcare field.
2018 Essay Contest Winners

Shelby Randolph
Student in the College of Nursing

"I was hired for my first on-campus job freshman year of college. Being a freshman in college and having a part time job involved great self-discipline. Mornings are rough, so I trained my body to wake up at 8AM for school and work every day. I developed a system, which involved nothing but school and work between 8AM – 5PM on weekdays. I worked hard during the day so I could enjoy my night… I still have this same job five years later and it continues to keep me on track. It is my own responsibility to fulfill my school and work obligations in order to be successful. I will carry this self-discipline into my nursing career by arriving to work promptly, professionally, and prepared… This experience has taught me self-discipline, communication skills, and time management."

Maggie Mei
Student in the College of Business Administration

"Being a Resident Advisor (RA) for a primarily freshman dorm means that I am residents’ first point of contact. It is my job to ensure that students transition smoothly from high school to college and to equip them with resources necessary to succeed. In order to do this, I build connections with them… In terms of the professional aspect, it has taught me how to socialize and connect with others, which is especially important when attending networking events. When I attend networking events, I have found it much easier to talk with employers because I receive so much practice in talking to different residents as an RA. Moreover, unexpected challenges arise constantly in my position… Every single day is new as an RA… Overall, being employed on campus has helped me develop soft skills, which includes getting along with different types of people, forming valuable connections, and acting fast when challenges arise."

Isana Cambraia Guimaraes
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Working as a Student Patrol, I have learned how a police department functions and the day-to-day life of a police officer on patrol… Since my career goal is to go into law enforcement and my major is in Criminal, Law and Justice, working at the UIC Police Department has helped me build a background and network of professional law enforcement officers that encourage growth in my career development. On the other hand, working as an Office Assistant at the Office of Capital Planning and Project Management has taught me how to professionally work in an office… If it weren’t for my campus jobs, I wouldn’t be adequately prepared for the heavy workload and difficult challenges that lay ahead of me in my career path. Because of my campus jobs I am able to multitask, manage my time well, and have a resume that demonstrates diverse work experience that can be applied to my professional career for the rest of my life."
2018 Essay Contest Winners

Karan Lahwani
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Currently, I work in the University Benefits and Payroll department (UPB). I started working in the summer of 2017 and have gained lots of benefits… Working at UPB helped me find… where I fit in among all those voices of UIC and I found that I could speak up and be heard just like anyone else. I think it’s where I get the strongest sense of the UIC family, the fact that strangers were willing to pick up the phone and help out a nervous freshman… Working is not just earning money, it’s a way a student develops socially and professionally. My communication skills and other professional skills have improved a lot… I have met so many people and other students with different majors which has increased my knowledge about various careers after graduation. I am really grateful to UIC for giving me the opportunity to work.

Aumbreen Baig
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Working in the Student Employment Office has taught me how to have a good work ethic in the workplace. Whether it was dealing with students, coworkers, or even supervisors, there needs to be a sense of integrity with the people you interact with. I am thankful enough to have a supervisor that demonstrated that in various situations, one should always come off as respectful, responsible, and honest… Having a sense of commitment to the work that goes into the office every day and working in an office that serves the whole university is a lot to handle. But taking things slowly and double checking the work… brings me better understanding, which is to do the work properly and efficiently as possible… I am so grateful for this on-campus part time job as it has taught me lifelong lessons that will help me through my future endeavors… This is only the beginning of my future and I hope to continue to grow as an individual.

George Duran
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Imagine. Rebuilding your life from the ground up; leaving behind almost everything you ever owned – everyone you ever knew – 10,000 miles away. The vast ocean standing in between you and your old life. I get to witness this transition firsthand with my job on campus at the Office of International Services. I get the pleasure to meet students from all over the world… What these students do not know, however, is the valuable experience they give me. Working in an office is one of the more rewarding jobs one can get on campus, because an office is where one can learn a lot of skills that are high in demand in today's world. Since I started working in the office, I have gained intercultural communication experience, but more importantly I have made life-long friendships."
**2018 Essay Contest Winners**

**Yasmine Toledo**  
Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

"Working in the Department of Ophthalmology in the Eye and Ear Infirmary I get firsthand experience working with doctors, technicians, and orthoptists. One of the skills that I’ve acquired in my job is the ability to prioritize tasks. It is crucial for me...to assert my professionalism. Seeing that this role has little supervision, I have also been able to develop the ability to work alone. This has allowed me to be a problem solver and in turn has strengthened my organizational skills, discipline and dependability...I have learned how to adequately pay attention to the feelings being expressed by patients and manage stress levels while remaining alert and calm...Ultimately through my employment at UIC within the past 10 months, I have gained various valuable skills that will be crucial to other employers upon my graduation which speaks to the importance of a part-time job while attending college.

**Sweet Sentiments**

Listed below are messages submitted by supervisors to their student employees!

**To: Richard J. Daley Library - Resource Acquisition & Maintenance (RAM)/ Collection Maintenance Students**

We want to acknowledge our student crew for the great job they contribute to our unit. Continue to strive for excellence in your work! We want to recognize Alejandra Burgos, Brea Williams, Chuntay Nunnally, Leslie Martinez, Milachelle Powell, Odeh Alzraikat, Patryk Bielec, Tangela Hudson, Brandon Reichman, and Mohamed Elamin.  
Happy Student Employment Week! Thank you so much,

From: All of Us (at the Richard J. Daley Library - RAM/Collection Maintenance Unit)

**To: Christian Rivera**

Christian, Thank you for your hard work and dedication! You are doing a great job here at IHRP and we are very lucky to have you! You are a pleasure to work with!

From: Barbara Gottesman

**To: Jacqueline Castillo**

Thank you for the wonderful service you have bestowed upon the Department of Economics. It’s so hard to believe that you will be graduating this semester! It will be difficult for us to find someone to fill your shoes. We wish you continued success in your studies and future job search. You have what it takes, Jackie, get out there and conquer life!  
Best always,

From: Carol, Erin and Prof. Lehrer
Sweet Sentiments

To: The Yard Student Staff Team

The YAAARRDDDDD! I am extremely blessed to be able to work with such creative young adults who are devoted to shaping the experiences of our students living on campus. We’ve done so much work this year to overhauling what people used to once think of Courtyard and I am so proud of all your accomplishments. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

From: Andy Ng

To: Alli Broad

How you manage to be excellent in both school, gymnastics, and as a tutor is remarkable. Thank you for being a solid foundation I can lean on and more importantly students can lean on here at UIC.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson

To: Alyssa Minnicino

You are wonderful! Easy, go with the flow, always want to be helpful when it comes to student tutoring. You were hiding for too long and you need to let more of that shine. Thanks for being a rockstar.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson

To: Ilse Esparza

You have done an exceptional job drafting each week the AHS Connections and I'm so very grateful. I appreciate that you don’t need any of my guidance to do them.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson

To: Josue Olivares

The best employees are the ones that need little supervision and take the initiative to complete all tasks. Thank you for stepping it up this semester and taking on your job with pride.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson

To: Sami Elmuti

Thank you for being mission focused and striving for excellence as a tutor and team member of the ASAP community.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson
Sweet Sentiments

To: AARCC Student Employees

Alexis, Giselle, Christina, Krystal, Lahney, and Ram:
THANK YOU for all you do at AARCC! We appreciate your hard work and contributions to the AARCC community.

From: Mark Martell

To: Joe S., Cynthia E., Taylor R., Bianca J., Obi O., Kendrick S., Iryna V., De’Joie S., and Ricardo T

Thank you for your commitment to providing the best service to our residents, visitors, and other customers. With gratitude,

From: Nick, Bri, and Annmarie

To: Andrea, Anne, Anthony, Chuntay, Denis, Diamond, Ellie, Eric, Evelyn, Giovanni, Kera, Lucas, Mary Kate, Mauricio, Michelle, Minh, Muhammad, Naomi, Patrick, Raven and Tiffany.

Sincerest thanks for all your dedication and hard work. You guys rock!

From: Uva Villalpando

To: LARES Student Workers

...LIGHTS, CAMERA, APPRECIATION! We are rolling out the red carpet for our LARES Student Worker SUPER STARS! LARES sincerely appreciates your hard work, bright attitude, and excellence week after week. You truly set the stage for success. We appreciate all that you do.

Thank you!

From: Areli Castaneda

To: Aumbreen, Matthew, Rosa, Mohmed, Barbara, Mana, and Maria

Carmen and I are extremely blessed to have each and everyone of you on our team. Student Employment would not be able to accomplish all that we do without your help. Thank you for being patient, caring, and empathetic towards one another and especially to the entire campus whom we service. Needless to say, YOU ARE ALL AMAZING and the SEO's ROCK STARS!!!

From: Carmen Garza and Rosaura Garcia
Thank you for your involvement in National Student Employment Week. This is our 25th year of acknowledging and celebrating the important work and accomplishments of our UIC student employees. At UIC, nearly 3,000 students work on campus in numerous roles and capacities. Giving our students the opportunity to work on campus leads to mutually beneficial opportunities and outcomes.

These include:
- Developing career readiness skill-sets in a professional work setting
- Enhancing relationships with fellow students, faculty and staff
- Gaining insight to a diversity of work roles and areas within the University

The Student Employment Office is grateful to be partnering with you in providing services, programs, and events. Thank you to all of our partners and student employees for your many outstanding contributions.

Sincerely,
Thy Nguyen

UIC NSEW Awards Selection Committee

[Left to Right]

Graundia Smith
CAS Human Resources

Jessie Duran
Library

John Brach
Institute for Health Research and Policy

Cesar Canizales
UIC Police

Fredy Amaya
ACCC