

# NATIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT WEEK



# National Student Employment Week 2019

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 15-19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. For the past twenty-six years, in conjunction with the National Student Employment Association, UIC has celebrated National Student Employment Week.

## Upcoming Events

### *Info Booths*

April 15, 16, 17, 2019  
11:00am-2:00pm  
SCE, Booth 1

### *Linked In Lab & Photobooth*

April 18, 2019  
3:30pm-5:00pm  
SCE, Room 605 (Tower)

### *Resume & Cover Letter Workshop*

April 16, 2019  
3:30pm-5:00pm  
SCE, Cardinal Room (329)

### *Finding Internships*

April 17, 2019  
3:30pm-5:00pm  
SCE, Cardinal Room (329)

# 2019 Student Employee of the Year

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

*Cynthia Galvan*

General Office Assistant – School of Literature, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics  
Nominated by: Sara F. Hall and Alma R. Sias



Cynthia Galvan is outstanding; we would describe her as a “Super All-Star” ....[I] have witnessed with great admiration how Cynthia transitioned from being an ordinary student employee and rose to the level of “exceptional assistant” ...She fully immersed herself in the role as lead student to the other three student employees and has effectively become our de-facto office manager...She oversees the work schedules of the other workers, delegates the incoming work, check in with our Assistant Director

# 2019 Student Employee of the Year

and with our Program Coordinator on behalf of the team, and takes the lead on outgoing communications to the faculty in the six departments and three minor programs that comprise the SLCSL... Her creative instinct has produced some very unique and attractive designs, whether on bulletin boards or flyers for distribution for posting or via e-blast. The facets of her work are extremely important, as we are a unit of many sub-units and our central communications and our display boards provide much of the "glue" that holds us together and tells people from the outside who we are as a unit with a unified mission and culture. Cynthia's growth, over the last year especially, has been transformational. She has learned the intricacies and gained the tact to manage the differing needs of faculty and graduate students, as well as guests...Above all, she is never hesitant to tackle issues that arise in her team or offer suggestions for improvement when issues are brought to her by faculty or administrative staff...Furthermore, the administrative staff of five permanent employees rely so much on Cynthia as another member of the core team that they sometimes forget Cynthia is a student worker...In sum, we would define Cynthia as dependable, responsible, conscientious, empathetic, resourceful, creative, and overall just a joy to work with.



## 2019 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.

### *Syeda Wasia Batool Rizvi*

Library Administrative Aide II – University Library  
Nominated by: Rodney Chambers



In a short time, [Syeda] has become a critical, cohesive component in leading a team of six student employees in Administration. From the time of her original interview, she was (and remains today) the most energetic student employee I have worked with in my time here...At the reception desk for almost 20 hours a week, she welcomes visitors with a polished demeanor and maintains healthy working relationships with all nine Library administrators...I have never had to discipline her on any facet of her position:

duties, tasks, errors, work productivity, timeliness, behavior, attire or attendance. She is an extremely mature and grounded individual who is exactly the type of student we target to represent the Library and this university... Singlehandedly she is assisting in treating student employment at the Library like interning: teaching, training, and preparing. Her involvement in their administrative onboarding is precisely why the team has evolved from the simplicity of just completing tasks to understanding the Library as a business and comprehending exactly how those tasks contribute to its success...[Syeda] is changing the face of student employment at UIC and has helped revolutionize how we hire and train new student employees in the University Library.

# 2019 Student Employee All-Stars

## Zarak Islam

Undergraduate Research Assistant – Anatomy and Cell Biology

Nominated by: Mary Jo LaDu



Zarak is an Honors college scholar and a member of the GPPA program in medicine. While working in my lab for the past year, he has demonstrated skillful management of his time (academics, volunteer work and the lab), a deep intellectual understanding of our work, an exceptional sense of responsibility and a willingness to do whatever work is required, whether it is dishes or conducting the research project he has developed with the guidance of myself and his graduate student mentor. He joined the lab as a freshman

with little research experience but has since mastered skills including mice husbandry, behavioral testing and the most complex surgical techniques, as well as basic and advanced biochemical techniques...In the journal clubs, Zarak is always one of the few people who asks the key questions and offer suggestions or comments based on other presentations. He is intuitive and grasps new concepts effortlessly. Clearly, Zarak's technical and intellectual contribution to our lab is outstanding...In sum, Zarak is reliable and thoughtful, and a model student employee. Zarak is the ideal nominee for this award, exceeding all expectations. He is simply one of the best undergraduate student employees I have ever had.

# 2019 Student Employee All-Stars

## Lisa Fields

Student Coordinator – Academic Computing and Communications Center  
Nominated by: Sadonia L. Ruff



Lisa has worked with ACCC HR for the last two years and has done an extremely exceptional job. She goes above and beyond our expectations for student work performance. Lisa has quickly gained the technical and soft skills needed to perform high level HR Coordinator duties. She assists in managing the departmental payroll process, enters

timesheet data, and compiles all ACCC employee and student timesheets for HR Manager approval in Banner. She has successfully trained other student workers hired to work as HR Assistants for the department...One of her most recent major accomplishments was to develop a New Employee Orientation PowerPoint Presentation...Lisa constantly displays a professional demeanor and strictly adheres to and enforces our policy of confidentiality...As a member of our HR team, staff members can rely upon her to answer questions and quickly respond to various request either by phone or email. We also rely upon her university/departmental knowledge and expertise to help our department run smoothly and efficiently. We value and appreciate Lisa's excellent service and dedication to ACCC and are most proud of the platform we have established to help her excel. We are glad that we have contributed to her growth not only as a student at UIC but as a future HR Professional upon graduation!

# 2019 Student Employee All-Stars

## Dominique Dillworth

Computer Specialist – Academic Commuting and Communications Center  
Nominated by: Qeshawnda Haynes



Dominique Dillworth has been employed as a student worker with ACCC for nearly 3 years. Over the years, she has grown more mature in various roles. She started as a remote lab technician, and then moved into specialized phone support for which she has excelled. Her client interactions are always positive and she's willing to go the extra mile for them and for staff. For example, Dominique had a phone call with a client that had a hard time logging into an application. She took the time to carefully explain each step and walk the client through

the entire login process...At the end of the call the client was overjoyed and requested to speak with a supervisor to leave her an excellent commendation. Also, that same client wrote a letter of praise on her behalf. Dominique constantly exceeds expectations and consistently provides exceptional customer service. Her unique contributions to ACCC provides a positive impact on our operations and ensures we are consistently providing quality support to the UIC community...Dominique has demonstrated such great work ethic that I personally approached her to be promoted to the highly specialized Identity and Access Management team...I do not know any other student employee more deserving of this award.



# 2019 Essay Contest Winners

*Amy Chou*

Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



In a community, such as UIC where all the students can be seen as just numbers, it's hard to reflect on the level of impact that a student can make to their community while striving towards their future endeavors. However, having a part-time job on campus has shaped me to realize that I can be more than just a number, that I can pursue a career in this field... As a Peer Mentor, my role is to develop relationships through interactions with residents in the residential area to build community... This job has also enabled me to handle unexpected situations, and plan out well thought [out] programs, while finding the balance between school and work which contribute to my time management skill...

As a neuroscience major, this part-time job may seem completely different... but in fact, it has sparked my interest even further... Through this job, I realized that I want to pursue a Ph.D. and continue in the field of higher education as a professor in order to continue a mentorship with college students. All these experiences have shaped me to who I am today, and overall, being a Peer Mentor has positively influenced my life choices and what I aspire to be.

*Perla Santoyo*

Student in the College of Business Administration

Part-time jobs offer [students] an opportunity to get hands-on experience in different fields of study. It is the time to narrow down your passions and flaws, and nonetheless, a part-time jobs can be a gateway to your career... When you take your part-time job seriously you learn many skills you can transfer to any internship or job opportunity that may cross your way. Not only that, but the skills and relative experience you acquire will also rest on your resume which you can alter as new opportunities arise... While working in [my part-time job], I learned my true passions and I found outstanding mentors that will be with me throughout my career... In the end, the part-time jobs you obtain in college will help you figure out what you value in a job as well as what you would not want in a job. Your experiences as a part-time student employee are valued by anyone who is looking to employ someone with relative experience. You get the opportunity to expand your knowledge and skills. Through trial and error, you will learn what type of job you aspire to have, and you will be better prepared for your future career. Your work is valued by your supervisors, future employers, and yourself, of course.



# 2019 Essay Contest Winners

*Herbert M. Nuvvagaba*

Student in the College of Engineering



I've worked at several offices at UIC and I'm proud to say that all these experiences have helped me improve professionally. I come from Uganda, a third world country where there aren't as many opportunities to advance essential skills like public speaking, networking, writing reports and proposals. I've big dreams of using my civil engineering background to improve the quality of life in third world countries like Uganda. However, without the necessary professional skills, I won't be able to achieve my dreams and goals...At my first job at UIC, I was an undergraduate researcher...I learnt how to write scholarly reports, do research and write proposals...These learned skills have really helped me professionally. They helped me craft great essays and personal statements...Through these jobs, I learnt how to improve on my public speaking and networking skills...I believe these [skills] will help me in my academic journey at MIT and my professional career as a civil engineer. I'm eternally grateful to UIC for providing me with all these opportunities. I wouldn't be the same engineer I am today without them.

**Congratulations to ALL the  
NSEW Winners!**

## Sweet Sentiments

I'm writing to send a huge THANK YOU to the seven LCLC Language Peer

Tutors: French: Yovana Guerrero, Nada Marei, Crystal Figueroa

Italian: Ariana Antonelli, Valentina Lemez, Teodora Marinescu

German: Karen Nava

They do a wonderful job of welcoming and collaborating with French, German, and Italian BLP students who come in with questions. All their hard work is much appreciated!

From: Elizabeth Dolly Weber, Ph.D.



Thank you Yovana, Nada, Crystal, Ariana, Valentina, Teodora, and Karen!

The School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics greatly appreciates your dedication to your fellow students' learning and success and the energy and ingenuity you put into language tutoring!!

Best wishes,

From: Sara Hall



To: Alexis, Vaidehi, Giselle, David, Niha, and Abby

THANK YOU for all that you do at AARCC. The pro staff and GAs appreciate your hard work. We are not a team without you!

From: Mark Martell



To: Allison Anderson

I appreciate your positivity and interest in doing more in ASAP. I know you have so much to offer and am grateful for your commitment this year.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson



To: MRH/TBH Staff Team MRH/TBH Staff Team

Y'all are the best bunch of student leaders the apartments has ever seen. Thank you for making this such an incredible year for our residents. From the outstanding turnouts at programs to late night conversations, I've had such a great time working with you all and you've really solidified this year for me here at UIC. I appreciate you all very much and wish you nothing but the best in all your future endeavors.

From: Andy Ng



To: Juned Vohara

Juned, thank you SO MUCH for all of your hard work at IHRP! You are a pleasure to work with and we are very lucky to have you on our team!

From: Barbara Gottesman

# Sweet Sentiments

To: Jessica Vazquez

Jessica, I am sad to see you go. You were gifted in getting things done without even needing my guidance. Good luck in your next steps and of course, let me know if you need anything.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson



To: Michelle Moy

I can't believe it this is your last year in ASAP, I appreciate your dedication to your peers and the mission of ASAP. I will sincerely miss you, not just as an employee but as a terrific person who I get to see most days.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson



To: Brandon Vivas

Brandon I appreciate your consistency in your "Thoughtful Thursdays" community building project in motivating others. It is always a pleasant surprise to read what you offer and I thank you for cultivating that discussion.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson



To: Martha Davalos

**You're an AWESOME Student Employee!!!**

A = always leading peers

W = willing to help

E = excellent communication

S = service with a smile

O = outstanding performance

M = manages time well

E = everyone's go-to person

To: Lizbeth Saldana Munoz

**You're a GREAT Student Employee!**

From: Tanya Murry



To: Emily Eienhoff

Way to start strong! You joined our staff and have been so instrumental in supporting our mission and supporting students. I appreciate all the projects you have worked on and the passion you have for improving our social media and general community in ASAP.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson

## Sweet Sentiments

To: Isaac Waddell

Thank you for all your hard work, I appreciate you and all you do.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Sarah Stevens

It is truly a pleasure working with you and I look forward to working with you in the future.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Caleeiah Simmons

You are Amazing!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Khorl Shields

Thanks for all you do, always willing to help when I call and I appreciate you for that.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Monica Patel

You are an amazing young lady, thanks for all you do.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Chizoba Okeke

Thanks for all your help and support and I wish you all the best.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Abimbola Ogunbowale

I seen leadership from day one. Thank you for being a team player and helping out whenever you can.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Makayla Mays

Thank you for being you, you are appreciated.

From: Kechia Denton

# Sweet Sentiments

To: Hope Opuada

Thanks for being a GREAT employee. I have watched you grow tremendously. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. You always check on me and give me an encouraging word. I appreciate that about you. As you continue to move forward in you dream career, remember that I am your biggest cheerleader. I will miss you so much and your colorful attire. Congratulations! Class of 2019.

From: Dasheka Whitaker



To: Chuntay Nunnally

You are a wonderful employee. Thank you for you kindness and insight. You have improve so much and I appreciate you working in our department. Although your studies are challenging, you continue to work hard toward and seek out help when you don't understand. Thanks for always having a listening ear. Remember that you are stronger that to think. Thanks for rising to the challenge.

From: Dasheka Whitaker



To: Mayra Bahena

You are an AWESOME employee. I am so proud of you. Stay humble. Continue to move forward with a sweet spirit. As you pursue your dream career always remember to carry Him with you. I am going to miss you very much. Congratulations! Class of 2019 and your new endeavors.

From: Dasheka Whitaker



To: Milachelle Powell

You are an AMAZING student. Thanks for your loyalty and dedication. I appreciate you. I love our conversations. You encourages me. I always look forward to you working because you take care of business. Keep shining. Thank you for your smiles they brighten my day!

From: Dasheka Whitaker



To: Ross Acquah

You are an OUTSTANDING student. Although you are quiet, I appreciate you hard work. I appreciate you helping me to work through my issues as your supervisor. When you speak I listen because you truly don't speak much. You are confident and strong. Continue to be yourself. Never let any take your kindness for weakness. It has been a pleasure to have you as my student. You rock!

From: Dasheka Whitaker



To: Alex, Allayah, Amna, Andrea, Anne, Anthony, Caitrin, Cassie, Chuntay, C.J., Denis, Ellie, Evelyn, Ivan, Kera, Lily, Lucas, Minh, Muhammad, Naomi, Patrick, Quincy, Raven, Tiffany, Veronica and Vishnu

We couldn't do what we do in the library without you guys! You Guys Rock!

From: Uva Villalpando

# Sweet Sentiments

To: Adil Kaleem

You're a great addition to the HR team! Thanks for your help, good energy, friendly and warm personality and willingness to learn new things! I appreciate all you do!

From: Jessie Duran



To: Tamaya Levy

You rock! Thank you for your endless contributions to the HR team. You always go above and beyond everything you do!

From: Jessie Duran



To: Simone Johnson

Thank you for all your help and support, you are truly appreciated, but the time has come for you to really spread your wings and fly, I'm hopeful you will soar into all that life has to offer you. Congratulation on Graduation and thanks for all you've done here on South Campus.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Adesola Odedina

Thank you for stepping up to the plate, showing up and showing out! You are an amazing young lady and a pleasure to work with. Thanks for all you do!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Salimat Solebo

Thanks for all you do! I'm glad to have this opportunity of working with you, thanks for taking on this challenge. I'm glad to be a part of this wonderful team. You are truly appreciated!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Ariel Zaker-Nunez

Congratulations! I know you will do well and you have our full support.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Kendall Brock

I've always say thank you to you personally for your amazing work ethics, customer service skills, punctuality wiliness to learn, listen and help others. Now I have a larger platform to say thank you Kendall Brock for being you.

From: Kechia Denton

# Sweet Sentiments

To: Eunice Kpatah

Thank you for working with us on South Campus, we appreciate you and the amazing customer services you provided to the residents. Congratulations on your Graduation and wishing you all the best!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Aishat durojaiye

Thank you Aishat, for all the work you do in securing the residents on South Campus, you are appreciated!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Lillie Elling

Thank you for choosing South Campus to be your place of employment you are an awesome young lady and a pleasure to work with.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Victor Fong

Thank you for being you and all you bring to the South Area Team, keep up the amazing job.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Moses Kayiwa

It was a pleasure working with you, we had lots of laughs, lol!, and teachable moments, I know you'll be great at anything your involved in.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Arianna Locelso

YOU ARE AMAZING!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Sherrell Bates

Thank you for being a part of this amazing team.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Shaina Maninang

Thank you Shaina for all you do.

From: Kechia Denton

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## Sweet Sentiments

To: Kanaan Childers

Thanks for all you do!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Caroline Reidenbach

You're doing an amazing job!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Tamyra Jarrett

I like your drive you came into this team with, keep up the great work! It's a pleasure to have you aboard.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Aly Jamal

You came in sleeves rolled up ready to work, eager to learn always in compliance and asking questions. You're an amazing young man to work with. Thanks!

From: Kechia Denton



To: Crystal Bradley

Thank you for being open and willing to learn, your a Gem.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Cailyn Zaker

Thank you for your professionalism and smiles. :)

From: Kechia Denton



To: Nathaniel West

Thanks for all you do, it's been truly a pleasure working with you.

From: Kechia Denton



To: Martin West

You are an amazing young man that has a lot to offer this world, thank you for being apart of this team on South Campus.

From: Kechia Denton

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# Sweet Sentiments

To: Alli Broad

You have been such a constant pulse in ASAP. Students appreciate your teaching, you are responsible to your commitments and also the mission of ASAP. You come to work with a smile and think through how to be supportive to students. Thank you.

From: Viviana Kabbabe-Thompson



To: Rudy Calderon

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Department of Medicine. All of your work is very much appreciated!

From: Michael Paprzyca



To: Juned Vohara

Juned, thank you SO MUCH for all of your hard work at IHRP! You are a pleasure to work with and we are very lucky to have you on our team!

From: Barbara Gottesman



To: Saing Nhav

Saing, thank you SO MUCH for all of your hard work this year. You have not only been super pleasant to work with, but you really have been a superstar. From the moment you started, you have done an excellent job. You are a quick learner, hard working, reliable and efficient. You have become someone that we have all come to depend on and we are so lucky to have you as part of our team.

From: Barbara Gottesman



Last but not least, our student staff within Student Employment...

Andrea, Barbara, Elda, Mana, Matt, Mohamed, Perla and Rosa

We found a gold mine in you! Thank you for all your busy hard work with all the admin processes that take place in the world of Student Employment HR.

Your great work makes a big difference. We highly value you! Enjoy this week and all the fun food and gifts we have for you.

From: Carmen, Rosie and Sandy





*Thy Nguyen*  
Executive Director  
Career Center



*Carmen J. Garza*  
Director  
Student Employment

Thank you for your involvement in National Student Employment Week. This is our 26th year of acknowledgement 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 & Carmen J. Garza

## UIC NSEW Awards Selection Committee



[Left to Right] Ruby Vega Lepe – Student Centers Operations  
Jessie Duran – University Library, Cesar Canizales – UIC Police

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Designed by: *Lakshmi Manaswi Kattia*  
*MS, CS Department*

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