December 12, 2017

2017 Staff Achievement Award Recipients

Community Contribution
Greg St. Germain

Greg St. Germain epitomizes what it means to be a change maker in one’s community. He is an exemplary leader within the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) community, and his work has directly impacted the lives of people affected by this debilitating disease. He leads one of the largest Walk for ALS events in Abbotsford, and is a volunteer lead for the children’s camp for kids affected by ALS. As a walk coordinator Greg has inspired many people, such as SFU students, employees and departments, to get involved to help find a cure. In just the past 3 years over $210,000 has been raised at the Fraser Valley Walk for ALS and walk attendance has tripled. He is very thankful for all the support he gets from the volunteers, especially his walk committee, and feels the more people who get involved will lead to a greater awareness of this debilitating disease.

Innovation Award
Amanda Goldrick-Jones

Amanda’s dedication to continually improving and innovating the writing services offered through the Student Learning Commons (SLC) shines through everything she does. Amanda spearheaded the introduction of electronic client reports, allowing the SLC to conduct research on writing concerns and peer-tutor support. She has initiated a number of writing support projects. Amanda also collaborated on initial training for WriteAway an online tutoring service. Her passion for writing and for instructional support services is infectious and serves as an inspiration for all those who work closely with her.

Leadership Award
Tara Smith

Tara is simply an outstanding leader – she is efficient, she is careful, she is able to dissect complex and complicated situations and get to the core issues quickly, she is fast in addressing these. Tara handles multi-tasking easily and she is always so professional, polite, warm and calm, even in stressful situations. She treats each and every one of staff and faculty members with respect. She has brought a very pleasant working environment into the office and has indeed inspired the staff in creating a “can do” atmosphere and positive vibes. She is an incredible leader!

Lifetime Achievement
Donalda Meyers

Donalda joined SFU in 1981 and has had a long and distinguished career in providing support, service and leadership within the SFU community. On several occasions she was seconded from her department because of her reputation as one with a thorough knowledge of SFU operations, and as one who “gets things done”. She embraced these challenges with her usual vigor and good will. Donalda embodies the true spirit of an “engaged” university, and has provided excellent and selfless service and leadership throughout her time at SFU.
Lifetime Achievement
Wolfgang Richter

Wolfgang has been viewed as one of the unsung heroes within IT Services. He was never a person seeking external recognition for his work. Yet over his 40 years at SFU he has shown leadership in the development, implementation and continued maintenance support of databases used by many departments and countless individuals across the university. His work has allowed people to focus on their area of expertise, confident in the knowledge that their data was secure and accessible when needed. Wolfgang’s contribution to SFU throughout his career has been immense, and is still continuing to grow as we focus on big data research.

Student Service Award
Devi Pabla

Devi has provided the Faculty of Education with an exemplary quality of service for 35 years. She has, in this regard, been very much the welcoming, caring, hard-working face of the faculty. Devi never just “does her job”, she always does her best job. She is a most caring listener to staff and faculty and students. You always leave Devi feeling good. She spreads her happy dust about her like the blue fairy in children’s stories.

Team Award
Back On Track


The Back On Track Program (BOT) has truly been a collaborative effort that, over the past ten years, has helped many students in academic difficulty develop strategies for improving their academic and personal success. The BOT program team developed an innovative, holistic, and student centered curriculum designed to support students’ academic, social and emotional growth. The staff from many different areas of the university worked closely together to ensure the program would not only be seamless from an administrative perspective, but would also demonstrate sustainable and positive results.
Team Award
AV Services
John Yang, Scott Tucker, Andrew Szendrey, Lisa Shapko, Corey Kirk, Jim McArthur, Jesse Hill, Dave Gronlie, Allan Bell, Daniel Jang, Fahim Moussi, Fatima Araujo, Stuart Richardson, Tyler Nilsson, Lukas Holt, and David Stephenson

What stands out with the AV Services team is the inspiring dedication of the team members and their remarkable ability to collaborate in a large group to successfully deliver classroom and event technology. A recurring behavior among all team members, is a commitment to do whatever it takes to deliver the right audio-visual technology for the SFU community. The nature of events is one of frequent changes and last minute requests, however the team always stays positive with the clients and literally race throughout campus to deliver a timely and personalized service to instructors, staff and students.

Work Performance
Beverly Neufeld

Beverly Neufeld, Research Grants Facilitator in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) for over twelve years, works closely with FASS faculty members to develop research proposals for competitive research funding. Her work with researchers increases the likelihood of winning a grant, and her manner and approach reduces the pain of the process of applying. As a grants facilitator, Beverly’s work in unparalleled; she is knowledgeable about granting systems and resourceful in identifying potential funding avenues. She’s tireless as an editor, and not only goes above and beyond the call of duty, she is a joy and a pleasure to work with.

Work Performance
Laura Bologea

Laura Bologea does what is expected of her as a department manager brilliantly, but she also goes beyond the call of duty. Laura has been on top of things from the beginning. In addition to excelling in every single aspect of her work, she is a very pleasant person to be around. Laura has perfected the art of balancing the requirements of her job—being efficient, methodical, and stringent—with the traits that all members of the department appreciate—being helpful, accommodating, and supportive. She is quite simply the perfect person to act as department manager.

Work Performance
Robert McAdie

Robert is the Receiver/Shipper in Science Stores. He truly is one of the unsung heroes in supporting science research and teaching at SFU. Bob provides a wealth of knowledge on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods requirements for receiving and shipping goods for the Faculty of Science. He cares deeply about providing a safe work environment and is quick to point out areas that could use improvement. Bob cares deeply about SFU and about the support for our faculty, students, and his fellow staff.
Work Performance
Soo Oh

Soo is the Loan and Equipment Supervisor, who brings thoughtful consideration and definitive action to his position to ensure exceptional services and that the Library is always future focused. Soo and his team have consistently demonstrated a cheerful “can-do” attitude. He does not remain tethered to his day-to-day duties. He is consistently flexible and eager for change, always striving to go above and beyond regular expectations. Soo truly delivers a work performance that is consistently above and beyond the call of duty.

Work Performance
Ellen Yap

Ellen is an integral part of the School for International Studies. She consistently shows an exceptional dedication to the success of students in all aspects of their academic careers, internal and external to the classroom. Her work performance extends beyond the standard duties of an academic advisor to those of a facilitator, friend, and confidant. Ellen acts as a bridge between students and professors, all of whom respect her input, suggestions, and opinions. She shows her natural grace and courtesy to everyone who comes to the School. Her work ethic is “consistently above and beyond the call of duty”.

Work Performance
Richard Blackwell

Richard is the Manager of IT services in the large & diverse Psychology Department. His strong sense of commitment, loyalty, and work ethic are exemplary and beyond reproach. His keen sense of humor is a welcome respite when things are seemingly out of control. He is ready with a kind word and a funny story. Richard goes above and beyond the regular work hours, often working and responding to urgent needs in the evening and participating in events outside of his work hours. He is a major asset to the department, and to the University, and he has been for many, many years.