

School of Natural Sciences' Staff IMPACT Awards 2021-2022

The School of Natural Sciences' Dean and Staff Council created the SNS Impact Award to recognize staff members whose contributions have measurable, positive impacts on faculty, staff, or students within and beyond our School.

These contributions are either independent of or above and beyond those expected from assigned work, and contributions that include collaborations across SNS staff units or, even better, collaborations with other campus partners are especially valued.

Staff submitted nominations over the past year and the Dean worked closely with assistant Deans, Angie Salinas, and Ernie Costello, to select awardees. Seven IMPACT Award winners were announced last year at monthly SNS staff breakfast and each received cash awards in recognition of their contributions to our School.

2021-2022 Awardees

Jenn Souza, Undergraduate Academic and Pre-Health Advisor

Jenn worked closely with faculty reviewers, the Office of Admissions and California community colleges to manage the course articulation process, making it much easier for transfer students to join our School.

Erica Robbins, Director, Student Services and Pre-Health Advisor

Erica collaborated with faculty and other units on campus to facilitate two major improvements to the transfer experience for Biology students, which are a large fraction of our transfer student population.

Maricela Melendrez, Undergrad Advisor & Student Transition Coordinator

Maricela is a member of a campus transition committee that is developing strategies to ease students from freshman advising in BobCat Advising Center to 2nd year advising within the Schools. Maricela has worked hard to create a positive and supportive transition for students.

Karina Villegas, Business Services Manager

Karina devised process improvements to overcome hiccups in the Alpha Financials system that she shared broadly to help other units on campus work more effectively.

Paul Roberts, Director of Graduate Programs

Paul led the transition of graduate student events from in-person to online during the pandemic. Graduate School is hard, and the pandemic made it even more challenging. Paul provided much-needed support to both graduate students and faculty.

Jan Zarate, Graduate Coordinator

Jan Zarate used her deep institutional knowledge to help the Office of Research Business and Financial Services resolve complex grant related issues for graduate students. Jan's efforts directly supported both graduate students and faculty research.

Donna Jaramillo-Fellin, Physical Sciences' Instructional Lab Manager.

Dona accomplished the herculean task of leading the chemistry and physics labs through the pandemic and, on top of that, moving some labs to the new Biomedical Sciences and Physics Building. We are grateful for her unflagging support of our School's educational mission.