



## **5 Year Honorees**

**Michael Ames**

**Residence Hall Coordinator**

**University Housing and New Student Programs**

I am honored to be celebrating Michael Ames for his five years of service to Housing and Residence Life. Hired in the summer of 2019, Michael has endured the challenges of Covid and challenging fiscal times. However, through it all he has maintained a dedication and care for underrepresented students at CWU. His passion for athletes and those with a connection to Hawaii' really shines through. CWU is lucky to have such a dedicated employee!

**Janet Arentzen**

**Financial Manager**

**Budget and Budget Development**

I've had the privilege of working with Janet since she first joined the university. Her deep knowledge, attention to detail, and proactive approach have been crucial in streamlining the budget system, making it more efficient and accessible. With her retirement just four months away, she has been doing an exceptional job of transferring her broad expertise to her successor. It has been a pleasure working alongside Janet, and she will be greatly missed.

**Rich Bates**  
**Certified Flight Instructor**  
**Aviation**

Rich Bates has been a cornerstone of our team for the past five years. His dedication to teaching students how to fly has been remarkable. Rich is a trusted mentor, known for his patience and expertise. Every day, he inspires our students. Rich's commitment goes beyond the classroom. He has made a significant impact on both our team and the students he works with. His positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile make him an invaluable member of our organization. We are grateful for Rich's hard work and dedication. His influence and mentorship have deeply enriched our community.

**Laura Brant-Hoefer**  
**Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Education**  
**and Compliance**  
**President's Office**

There's many accomplishments to recognize Laura throughout her five years with CWU. Laura always offers support before it's even needed and always steps up- whether to lead the BIT team, stepping in to help other colleagues, all while simultaneously excelling at her own responsibilities. She always stands firm in doing what's right and speaks up for those who may not have seat at the table. We are so incredibly grateful to have her!

**Vanessa Calderon**  
**Cook 1**  
**Early Childhood Learning Center**

We proudly recognize Vanessa for five years of dedicated service as the amazing cook at the Early Childhood Learning Center at CWU. Your passion for preparing nutritious meals, your unwavering reliability, and your care for the children and staff have made a lasting impact on all of us. Thank you for bringing warmth, humor, friendship, and nourishment for the children to ECLC every day. Here's to five fantastic years—and many more to come! And everyone absolutely loves your meals!

**R.A. Cepeda**  
**Emergency Management Coordinator**  
**Environmental Health and Safety**

Thank you, Cepeda, for your hard work and dedication over the past five years in emergency management. Your efforts have greatly improved safety at the university. Your leadership in starting the Community Emergency Response Team has been a remarkable success. This initiative has also significantly enhanced our preparedness efforts. Every day, you show your commitment by finding new ways to make CWU a better place to work and to improve the quality of life in the Ellensburg community. Your contributions are recognized and appreciated by everyone. Thank you once again for your invaluable service.

**Adam DaVault**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 2**  
**Building Repair and Maintenance**

Since joining our facilities team Adam has consistently demonstrated professionalism and dedication and is committed to maintaining a safe and well-functioning campus environment. Whether responding to urgent requests, conducting routine work, or assisting with large scale projects, his attention to detail and proactive approach is greatly appreciated. His professionalism and quality of work has made a meaningful impact on faculty and students.

**James Davidson**  
**Information Technology Data**  
**Management – Journey**  
**Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and**  
**Planning**

Jim Davidson plays a key role in ensuring the CWU community has accurate, reliable data. As an Information Technology Data Management – Journey professional in Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, Jim is known for his exceptional problem-solving skills and dedication to supporting the university's mission. Thank you, Jim, for your hard work, technical expertise, and being a fantastic problem solver and colleague!

**Teresa Garcia-Lopez  
Custodian 1  
Custodial Services**

Teresa currently works at Samuelson primarily on the first floor. Samuelson is constantly busy with people in and out for class and events scheduled there. She does a wonderful job resetting the building from the previous day's foot traffic, which isn't always an easy task. She regularly shares treats with others on campus making sure everyone feels welcome. All interactions with Teresa leave you feeling uplifted and happy due to her positive attitude. Congrats on five years!

**Jim Harrison  
Data Consultant 3  
Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and  
Planning**

Jim Harrison has been a dedicated member of the Central Washington University community for five years, contributing his expertise as a Data Consultant in Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning. He has worked tirelessly to improve the data for the CWU community. Jim's commitment to finding innovative solutions has made a significant impact. His hard work, problem-solving mindset, and positive attitude are deeply appreciated. Thank you, Jim, for your many extra efforts in finding a way to get the job done, and for being an incredible person to work with!

**Mara Henderson**  
**Custodian 1, Custodial Services**

Mara has given us five years of her very best. She maintains professionalism at all times, she is kind and compassionate and works with our students with patience and understanding. Mara is detail orientated and does her best every day to make Dugmore shine like a new penny! We are so happy to celebrate five amazing years with Mara!

**James Jankowski**  
**Director, Project Management Office**  
**Project Management Office**

James has had a lasting impact on Central during his five years here. He successfully managed such projects as the opening of campus post-COVID, the website update, and the migration of Peoplesoft to the cloud. His leadership in IS has positively enhanced our operational maturity, Solution Request intake and project portfolio management. James is well known for his patience and interpersonal skills. We are lucky to have him on the team!

**Kurt Kirstein**  
**Associate Vice President**  
**Academic Affairs – Vice President**

Dr. Kurt Kirstein is a tireless advocate for students and faculty. He is known for rolling up his sleeves and tackling every responsibility and request with dedication and grace. Kurt has stepped into many roles at Central, including Interim Provost, and his steady leadership and commitment to student success, inside and outside of the classroom, make a lasting impact every day. His warm and welcoming presence makes CWU a better place for all. Thank you, Kurt, for all you do!

**Chanessa Knight**  
**Contracts Specialist 1**  
**Contracts and Procurement**

We're excited to welcome Chanessa to the Contracts and Procurement team! She joins us from the Dining team, where her attention to detail and support with invoice payments made a significant impact, as noted by Dean Masuccio. Chanessa's Wildcat roots run deep – she earned her degree at Central, worked as a student employee, and began her professional career here as a Financial Aid Counselor five years ago. Her dedication and strong connection to Central have already made a positive impact, and we look forward to her continued success.

**Shannon Larabee**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**University Centers – Yakima**

It is an honor to serve CWU with someone as dynamic as Shannon Larabee, Program Coordinator for the Eastside University Centers. Throughout her time here, Shannon has shared her remarkable talents in numerous ways, courageously advocating for both students and staff. She approaches processes and policies with logical efficiency and consistently seeks innovative solutions to better serve students in the Eastern Washington region. Authentic and supportive, Shannon is truly the thread that keeps our Eastside team tightly bound. Thank you, Shannon, for your unwavering dedication!

**David Leder**  
**Associate Director, Strategic**  
**Communications**  
**University Relations**

Dave Leder joined CWU as a writer and now leads Strategic Communications for the Office of Marketing and Communications. A gifted storyteller and genuine connector, Dave highlights the voices of students, faculty, staff, and alumni with care and clarity. He is a steady, positive presence and a driving force behind our success. CWU is incredibly fortunate to have him. Congratulations, Dave! And thank you for five outstanding years!

**Elaina Mitchell**  
**Instructional and Classroom Support**  
**Technician 3**  
**Biological Sciences**

For the past five years Elaina has been a reliable and steadfast supporter of our laboratory classes. In her work, she expertly prepares solutions for many types of biology experiments as well as hundreds of different kinds of media to culture microbes for student labs. She trains and supports students, staff and faculty. She is organized and we can always count on her to have materials ready so our classroom activities are a success.

**Muneeb Mobashar**  
**Instructional Technology Specialist**  
**Multimedia Technology and Instructional**  
**Support**

We want to take this opportunity to appreciate Muneeb for his unwavering patience, exceptional technical expertise, and dedication to empowering faculty through technology. As an instructional technologist, his ability to simplify complex tools and foster a supportive learning environment has made a lasting impact. Muneeb's calm demeanor and commitment to excellence have not only enhanced our digital capabilities but also inspired confidence in embracing innovation. His prompt responses are truly invaluable to our academic community. Thank you, Muneeb!

**Caleb Montgomery**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**University Advancement**

Caleb is a model Wildcat! As an alum and employee who has been part of the Academic Affairs, Athletics and Advancement teams at CWU. Caleb is a wonderful partner who is always willing to make sure that projects are delivered with the highest quality. As CWU Foundation Board Liaison he does a fantastic job working with Foundation Board Directors to ensure they have everything they need to help the Foundation make an impact for CWU and our students. As a coordinator of many Advancement projects, Caleb is relied upon by our whole team to take care of all the details and he never disappoints. I am always confident that when Caleb is working on a project it will be completed on time. Thank you, Caleb!

**David Mulkey**  
**Regional Director**  
**University Centers**

David Mulkey is the Regional Director for CWU Pierce and JBLM, where he brings a collaborative and professional approach to supporting students and maintaining strong partnerships. With five years of experience serving CWU's westside centers, he is committed to identifying new opportunities that expand access and meet student needs. In addition to his leadership role, David teaches in the IT Management program, further contributing to student success through both administrative and academic engagement.

**Rob Ogburn**  
**Executive Director, Business and**  
**Community Services**  
**University Relations**

Rob has been an adjunct faculty in the College of Business and recently stepped into the role of directing the newly created Business and Community Services office. 'BCS' primary objective is to facilitate economic development across the Central Washington region by leveraging the knowledge, expertise, and resources of the university to directly address the concerns of individual communities. BCS assists small, rural communities in economic development, data gathering and analysis, surveys, and other activities. Rob has stepped into this role to provide the kind of leadership that builds bridges, expands collaboration, and drives innovation. One of his proudest accomplishments is that BCS involves CWU business students in this work which expands their skillsets and prepares them for the workforce.

**Dayna Oyarzo**  
**Student Union Recreation Center (SURC)**  
**Executive Chef**  
**SURC Kitchen**

Chef Dayna began her journey with the dining team as a Food Service Worker Lead, quickly advancing through roles as Assistant Manager and Catering Sous Chef. Now serving as the Student Union Executive Chef, her exceptional culinary expertise and leadership have been instrumental in managing a large-scale industrial kitchen. Her skills and dedication have significantly contributed to the success of our campus' largest dining operation, ensuring high-quality service and an outstanding culinary experience for the university community.

**Stefanie Parker**  
**Student Health Services Director**  
**Student Health Services**

Stefanie Parker has been a dynamic leader and change-maker with Student Health Services, leading to significant improvements in student services delivery, departmental fiscal wellbeing, and employee morale. She is compassionate, approachable, strategic, and incredibly talented in the management of personnel and clinic operations at SHS. Stefanie's direct reports, fellow Directors, and supervisor all have incredibly positive feedback regarding her ability to lead SHS and contribute to the success of the Health and Wellness Unit, SES Division, and CWU as a whole. Thank you, Stefanie!

**Blanca Ramos**  
**Retention Counselor/Recruiter**  
**College Assistant Migrant Program**

Blanca Ramos has been in the role of Retention Counselor for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) since October 2023. In this position, she works closely with our 45-student cohort of migrant/seasonal farmworker students assisting them with wraparound services to help them succeed in their first year of college. When she is not assisting CAMP students with their goals, she is having adventures with her two daughters and husband. We are happy to have Blanca as part of our team!

**Gary Robertson**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 2**  
**Building Repair and Maintenance**

Gary Robertson joined Central in 2020 as part of our custodial team and transitioned to Maintenance Mechanic 2 in 2023. As our primary floor layer, Gary plays a vital role in maintaining campus facilities and often mentors student staff, sharing valuable trade skills. He is also on our after-hours callback list and consistently responds to emergencies with dedication. We truly appreciate Gary's positive attitude, strong work ethic, and the friendly spirit he brings to the team each day.

**Josie Rollins**  
**Fiscal Specialist 2**  
**International Studies and Programs**

Josie Rollins has been a valued member of the Office of International Studies and Programs for the past five years. As the office's Fiscal Specialist, Josie supports the AUAP, UESL, and Education Abroad units with their budgets. In addition, Josie is always ready to jump in and help with many other fiscal tasks the department may need her assistance with. Josie also serves as the Chair of the Classified Employee Council, advocating and supporting university-wide initiatives. Josie's friendly and outgoing personality make it a joy to work with her! The OISP team is very grateful for all that she does to support our unit and the university. Thank you, Josie, for your "can do" attitude!

**Alice Storey**  
**Associate Director, Student Accounts**  
**Student Accounts**

Today we proudly celebrate Alice Storey for five years of outstanding service to Central Washington University as Associate Director of Student Accounts, overseeing Cashiers and Student Services. Alice's expertise, professionalism, and dedication to student support have made a lasting impact on CWU. She leads with empathy, listens carefully, and responds thoughtfully. Thus earning the respect of students and colleagues alike. Her staff value her willingness to help and advocate for them. A trusted leader and mentor, Alice strengthens our community through compassion and integrity. Thank you, Alice, for your invaluable contributions, congratulations on this milestone and continued success ahead!

**Lindsay Swankosky**  
**Secretary Senior**  
**Aviation**

When I was hired as the Department Chair in 2022 Lindsay was the Senior Secretary. When key personnel left the flight school, I tasked Lindsay not only to monitor the flight program CATPLAN, but also take on the additional responsibility of recording and tracking student flight fees and FAA flight course progress. Earlier this year, Lindsay and I did a full audit of her duties and we updated her Position Description accordingly. After processing Lindsay's new PD, HR decided she needed to be reclassified and promoted her to Financial Analyst I. This is great news for Lindsay, but sad news for me. Shortly after Lindsay's promotion she was reassigned to the Director of Special Operations for CEPS. I still get to work with Lindsay two days a week though. I wish her the best in her new role. Dr. Pavel.

**Cody Taylor**  
**Campus Police Officer**  
**University Police and Public Safety**

Cody has proudly served the University for five years, most recently as a dedicated Police Officer. He began his CWU journey in the Parking Department while earning his master's degree, reflecting a deep commitment to growth and service. Since returning, Cody has become a valued leader and trusted resource across campus. His evolving leadership, sense of humor and embodiment of the Wildcat Way make him a truly uplifting presence. We're lucky to have him.

**Sydney Thompson**  
**Dean of Libraries**  
**CWU Libraries**

Sydney Thompson brings a supportive presence to her role as Dean of the Brooks Library, where she is thoughtfully reshaping the library's services to meet the evolving needs of our students and faculty. Her leadership has advanced open access initiatives that promote student affordability and expand academic resources. Sydney's commitment to inclusive, forward-thinking service makes the library a true hub for learning, collaboration, and community.

**Ginny Tomlinson**  
**Vice Provost of Institutional**  
**Transformation, Associate Vice President**  
**of Information and Security Services, and**  
**Chief Information Officer (CIO)**  
**Information Services**

Ginny Tomlinson brings innovation and steady leadership to her roles as Vice Provost of Institutional Transformation and Associate Vice President of Information Services. Bringing a mix of technical insight and big-picture vision, she has modernized information technology resources, expanded support across the university, and led her team through significant growth in responsibility and impact. In addition to Information Services, Ginny plays a key role in institutional transformation through her leadership in initiatives like the Adaptive University. Her growth-minded approach and collaborative nature is shaping CWU's future in lasting ways.

**Arturo Torres**  
**Registrar**  
**Office of the Registrar**

Arturo has been an exceptional leader, consistently seeking operational efficiencies and driving significant improvements across the registrar's office. His thoughtful approach, strong advocacy for his staff, and commitment to a university-wide perspective have made a lasting impact. Arturo's leadership reflects both integrity and innovation, and CWU is fortunate to benefit from his dedication and expertise.

**Deitra Underhill**  
**HR Consultant Assistant 2**  
**Human Resources**

Deitra has been a wonderful addition to the payroll team. She has a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. She is kind, thoughtful, generous and an absolute pleasure to be around. Deitra's attention to detail, ability to troubleshoot issues, and proactive approach to problem-solving make her an asset to our team. Her ability to adapt quickly and maintain accuracy even under pressure has been impressive. We appreciate her friendly and supportive demeanor, as she helps to create a work environment that is both efficient and enjoyable. Best of all, she is a funny lady and an amazing human being! Deitra is loved by her team!

**Jeffrey Vickers**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 2**  
**Boiler House Operations**

Your dedication and hard work as a maintenance mechanic 2 in the Boiler Plant over the past five years have been truly invaluable. Your expertise and commitment to keeping things running smoothly have made a lasting impact. Thank you for your contributions, and here's to many more successful years ahead!

**Jen Wildrick**  
**Customer Service Specialist 3**  
**Office of the Registrar**

Jen was referred to me from another university to work at CWU as a transfer evaluator as soon as we opened this position. After her hire, Jen moved forward quickly and efficiently to get transfer evaluations completed within days after receiving the transcript. She immediately started adding more transfer rules and schools in TES; she engaged with faculty to review incoming courses and TES training. The last five years have flown by, and Jen's leadership and knowledge of transfer has made the students' transfer experience remarkable and easy.

**Samuel Williams**  
**Media Technician Supervisor**  
**Student Union Operations**

Celebrating five years of service from Sam Williams, Student Union Media Tech Supervisor! Your dedication has made a meaningful impact—not just through the work you've done, but in the way you've supported others, shared your expertise, and led by example. Five years may be a milestone, but the value you've brought goes far beyond time. Thank you for your commitment, your heart, and the difference you make every day at CWU. Here's to many more.

**Lynnette Wood**  
**General Manager Student Union Dining**  
**Operations**  
**SURC Kitchen**

Lynnette joined Central Washington University in October 2019 as a supervisor and quickly advanced to Assistant Manager at Panda in May 2021. She became the General Manager of North Campus Operations in November 2021 and transitioned to the Student Union Dining Operation as General Manager in August 2022. Lynnette has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, enhancing dining services and fostering a collaborative, efficient work environment in one of our busiest locations.

**Aaron Woods**  
**Career Counselor**  
**Career Services**

As the Career Counselor for the College of Arts and Humanities and recently adding the College of The Sciences, Aaron has been a steady, dedicated presence especially during times of transition. His commitment to student success, strong work ethic, and team-oriented mindset have been a crucial asset to our team. His compassion for helping others and willingness to share his perspective have been invaluable to our team and the students he serves. We're so grateful for his contributions!



## **10 Year Honorees**

### **Caitlin Bassett**

#### **Assistant Director, Advising and Peer Mentoring Programs, Academic Advising-Exploratory**

Caitlin embodies professional excellence, possesses the gift of adaptability, and centers student care in the incredible work she has done throughout her career at CWU. From serving on committees to engaging with students, Caitlin's knowledge and expertise are vast. Her commitment and zest are evident in the work she does within the field of advising and the wider university ecosystem as a whole. Caitlin is a valued asset to CWU and a trusted colleague. Sincere congratulations on an exciting career milestone and much gratitude for her phenomenal contributions to the Wildcat community.

### **David Broweleit**

#### **Information Technology Customer Support – Journey, CWU Libraries**

David is the first line of hardware and software support for CWU Libraries and our Brooks Library partners, troubleshooting tech issues or ensuring smooth operations. A CWU alum, he began as a student technician in Computer Support Services and 88.1 The 'Burg. After time in Information Services, David joined CWU Libraries in 2015. He's also an enthusiastic member of the Kittitas County Amateur Radio Club. Congratulations, David, on ten years of dedicated service to Central!

**Caroline Browne**  
**Early Childhood Program Specialist 3**  
**Early Childhood Learning Center**

Please join us in celebrating Caroline's 10-year anniversary as a preschool teacher at the Early Childhood Learning Center at Central Washington University! For a decade, Caroline has brought compassion, creativity, and unwavering dedication to the classroom—helping to shape the lives of countless young learners. Her commitment to early childhood education has made a lasting impact not only on the children she teaches, but on the entire CWU community. Thank you, Caroline, for your years of hard work, patience, and heart. You are a valued and inspiring part of our team, and we are so grateful for all that you do. Happy retirement and well deserved as of February 1, 2026.

**Missy Davis**  
**Director, Human Resources Operations**  
**Human Resources**

Missy Davis has dedicated 10 years to Central Washington University, most recently serving as the Director for HR Operations. Her commitment to building consistent processes and mentoring student employees has been exceptional. Missy's leadership in recognition and creating a fun office environment has made a lasting impact. We are grateful for her unwavering dedication and inspiring contributions. Thank you, Missy, for being a force of positivity and excellence.

**Jeremiah Eilers**  
**Building Energy Manager**  
**Capital Planning and Projects**

In his ten years of service, Jeremiah has consistently sought to enhance his skills and knowledge, benefiting Facility Maintenance, Capital Planning, and the university as a whole. His collaborative approach, effective project coordination, and wide-ranging expertise have been critical to CWU's achievements, including geothermal exploration, energy management, and securing over \$2 million in grant funding. Jeremiah's work has positioned CWU as a leader in sustainability and energy solutions, earning recognition on campus and beyond. CWU is deeply grateful for his dedication.

**Penny Elstrom**  
**Fiscal Analyst 3**  
**Human Resources**

Today, we celebrate an incredible milestone—Penny Elstrom's ten-year anniversary with CWU. For two decades, she has been a cornerstone of our finance team, ensuring that one of the most essential aspects of the university—payroll—runs smoothly, accurately, and with absolute integrity. As our Payroll Accountant, Penny has consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication, precision, and reliability. Behind the scenes, her work touches every employee, every pay period, and contributes daily to the trust and confidence our team places in our operations. We thank Penny not only for her technical expertise but also for her loyalty, professionalism, and the steady presence that has helped shape our culture over the years. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful. Congratulations on ten remarkable years!

**Allyson Fogle  
Secretary Senior  
Political Science**

Allyson joined our department three years ago after we saw she'd likely be a good fit for our needs and quirky nature. She quickly made an atmospheric difference through her calm and laid-back demeanor and ability to prioritize as well as see things down the road to meet challenges head-on. Her welcoming persona and attention to the "human side" of work make faculty and students feel valued and well-served. Even her seasonal and holiday decorations make even the cavernous Farrell fourth floor a little brighter. She truly is an essential part of our team.

**Daniel Hall  
Safety Officer 1  
Chemistry**

Daniel Hall is a jack-of-all-trades in the Chemistry Department. He handles a complex, critical role encompassing lab safety and chemical management with confidence, foresight, and precision. More specifically, Daniel plays a key role in lab safety training for students and faculty – a particularly important responsibility in a department that offers lab courses to hundreds of students each quarter. When he is not hard at work at the university, Daniel is an avid hockey player. At work or on the ice, Dan is ready to “face off” against each day’s challenges!

**Vernée Hemphill**  
**Central Access Manager**  
**Wildcat Shop**

After spending two years as a student employee in Central Access, Vernée has continued to have a huge impact on students through the last ten years as a full-time staff working to provide learning opportunities to vulnerable communities of students at CWU and across the country. Central Access touches lives and makes learning possible for those with visual impairments. Vernée has been a pioneer in working with and now leading Central Access to provide these opportunities for students. Vernée is beloved by her student staff and is an excellent source for hikes and camping sites throughout the PNW and is very good at raising plants if you'd like to come visit her office. Thank you Vernée for your ten years of commitment to accessibility for our CWU students and the hundreds of others across the country you have helped to be successful. Thank you for being excellent!

**Rocky Hively**  
**Information Technology Customer Support –**  
**Journey**  
**Computer Support Services**

Rocky has been a member of the Information Services-Computer Support Services team since 2018. His professionalism and customer service skills are exemplary and appreciated by his teammates and the campus community. Rocky provides administrative support for all CWU printers and serves as the CWU Zoom administrator. In addition to those responsibilities, Rocky provides computer endpoint support for the Ellensburg campus and CWU Eastside Centers. Rocky, congratulations and thank you for ten years of CWU service!

**Kristalyn Huss**  
**Customer Service Specialist 2**  
**Office of the Registrar**

Kristalyn has worked in the Transfer Credit unit of the Office of the Registrar for the last two years. She quickly grasped the process of collecting academic transfer data, articulation of courses, building transfer rules and consulting with faculty. She keeps track of data integrity and ensures the data is corrected quickly and with minimum interruption to the student. Kristalyn is a fun coworker and is a staple to the Office of the Registrar.

**Candace Jensen**  
**Custodian 3, Custodial Services**

Candy is currently one of our custodial leads in the Academic buildings. Before moving to Academics, she was the Apartment lead in housing. She takes the initiative to tackle projects, get organized and prep for upcoming events. You can always depend on Candy to complete a job and with quality standards being met. She has a love for gardening and plants and is always excited to share her knowledge with others. Congrats on ten years!

**Nate Johnson**  
**Director, Development**  
**University Advancement**

Most of Nate's time at CWU was as a football coach, but recently he joined University Advancement and is now a Director of Development. Nate does a fantastic job working with donors to both academic and athletic programs. He works hard at being out in the field and building these relationships. He is an excellent collaborator with Advancement colleagues and never hesitates to offer to help or share his experience in a way that might assist his teammates. We are very grateful to have Nate on the team, thank you Nate!

**Megan McConnell**  
**Director, Transfer Center**  
**Transfer Center**

Megan returned to her hometown of Ellensburg in 2014 to take on the role of adviser for science majors. In 2020, she became the inaugural director of the Transfer Center. Her passion for supporting transfer students at CWU shines through in her enthusiastic advocacy for all things related to transfer education. On a personal note, Megan is now a proud grandmother. The admissions team has already conditionally admitted her granddaughter for the class of 2042. Like her grandmother, I'm confident her granddaughter will be a fantastic future Wildcat!

**Louis McDonald**  
**Control Technician**  
**Environment Management Control System**

Your dedication and expertise in programing changes to our boilers digital control system's extensive logistical sequences, building automation sensors, energy meters, lighting controls, managing field device software/hardware for thousands of networked devices across our CWU campus and maintaining our radio software database and associated devices plus so many other key operations over the past decade have been truly invaluable. Your commitment to excellence has made a lasting impact, and we deeply appreciate your contributions. We are so proud to have you as part of the FMD work family. Thank you for your hard work, and here's to many more successful years ahead!

**Angela Murry-Walker**  
**Academic Advisor**  
**Computer Science**

Angela serves as the advisor for the Computer Science program at CWU's Des Moines campus, and she does so with unmatched commitment. She connects with every one of her students and provides what can only be described as boutique advising—personalized, thoughtful, and impactful. Angela is not only the heart of the program at Des Moines, but also a trusted advisor to the department chair. Her work ethic, insight, and compassion elevate everyone around her. Today, we are proud to celebrate Angela and her ten years of contributions.

**Kristen Paton**  
**Events Coordinator 3**  
**Career Services**

Kristen brings heart and creativity to everything she does. Her compassionate, student-centered supervision builds confidence and growth, while her dedication to planning high-impact, educational programs enriches both our campus and employer partnerships. Kristen is also our office connector—the one who brings us together through celebrations, shared moments, and plenty of laughter. Her ability to balance advocacy, support, and fun makes her an invaluable part of our team and a joy to work alongside every day.

**Isaac Perry**  
**Head Athletic Trainer**  
**Athletics Administration**

It has been amazing to see Isaac's growth and development over the past ten years. In a profession that is incredibly demanding in terms of both time and intensity, Isaac has been a consummate professional and a great representative of Central Washington University and the Department of Athletics. His genuine care for our student athletes has allowed him to develop relationships built on trust and respect within our department and our external stakeholders.

**Angelia Riveira**  
**Associate Director, Running Start**  
**High School Partnerships**

We are proud to celebrate Angelia Riveira's ten years of dedicated service at Central Washington University. Angelia's unwavering commitment to student success shines through in everything she does. She consistently goes above and beyond her duties, making a lasting positive impact on students' lives. As the office expert on advising and Running Start, her knowledge and passion are invaluable. CWU is fortunate to have such a dedicated and student-focused professional.

**Taylor Sivak**  
**General Manager Student Union Dining**  
**Operations**  
**Tunstall Commons**

Taylor Sivak has been with CWU for 10 years, serving as General Manager of 1891 Catering for the past 15 months. Her diverse background, spanning Conference Services, Catering, Housing, and outside industry roles, brings depth to her leadership. Taylor has provided stability and growth to the 1891 Catering Team, drawing on her strong institutional knowledge and adaptable experience. Her success in this role has been inspiring, and I'm excited to see how she continues to lead and innovate.

**Kevin Spangler**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 3**  
**Building Repair and Maintenance**

Facilities deeply appreciate Kevin's dedication and expertise in construction and glazing. His skillful work enhances campus buildings, ensuring structural integrity and visual appeal. From renovations to repairs Kevin's craftsmanship improves safety, comfort, and aesthetics for students and staff. His reliability and commitment make a lasting impact and improve our universities infrastructure. We appreciate your outstanding contributions and service.

**Chris Stone  
Secretary Senior  
Psychology**

Chris has been with the Psychology Department for about two months now after having been with the College of Business and Computer Science department for longer periods of time. She has brought a wealth of knowledge about all of the CWU systems and has an extensive network of contacts. She loves connecting with others, has excellent computer skills, and is very organized. We so appreciate having her in our department!

**Chad Tester  
Director, Multimodal Education Center  
(MEC) and Universal Design for Learning  
Multimedia Technology and Instructional  
Support**

Over the past ten years, Chad has brought unwavering dedication, thoughtfulness, and heart to his work with faculty, staff, and the broader university community. He has been a driving force in advancing Accessibility, Universal Design for Learning, and most recently, supporting our exploration of Artificial Intelligence. Chad's adaptability, quiet leadership, and true spirit of collaboration have made him an essential part of our team. His steady presence and genuine care for our mission have been a gift. It has been a joy working alongside him, and I am excited for all that lies ahead.

**Charity Thornton**  
**Procurement and Supply Specialist 3**  
**Contracts and Procurement**

Charity has been a rock star in the Contracts and Procurement team these past 10 years! Charity's deep institutional knowledge of the University, along with her eagerness to go above and beyond has made her the MVP of Purchasing. In addition to Charity's vast experience and desire to do what's best for Central, her compassion and dedication to helping others, and her infectious positivity are what make her an invaluable member of the C&P team. Most importantly, her joyfulness is inspiring, and she always has an interesting nugget to share. C&P and Central are fortunate to have Charity, hopefully for many years to come.

**Leah Valverde**  
**Manager, Learning and Talent Development**  
**Human Resources**

Leah Valverde has dedicated 10 years to Central Washington University, most recently as our Manager of Learning and Talent Development. Her thoughtful and resourceful management has been pivotal in unifying our training and development efforts across the institution. Leah's commitment to excellence and innovation has made a lasting impact. We are grateful for her dedication and inspiring contributions. Thank you, Leah, for being a force for excellence and collaboration.

**Rod Venable**  
**Manager, Academic Technologies and Media**  
**Services (ATMS)**  
**Academic Technology and Media Services**

Rod has delivered exceptional service to the CWU community for 10 years. He and his team play a vital role in supporting classroom technology enhancements across campus. Rod's meticulous planning and project management quietly power the instructional tools faculty rely on to teach effectively every day. He demonstrates a deep commitment to the student learning experience and regularly advocates for it among his peers. A responsible steward of university resources, Rod thoughtfully balances outcomes with available means. He is a trusted colleague who offers clear, actionable feedback—whether offering praise or raising concerns—always with professionalism and courtesy. Rod is someone you can count on for honest dialogue and effective solutions. His leadership not only drives results but also fosters the growth of those he supervises. I've greatly valued having him on my team and appreciate the insight, care, and expertise he brings to every project and conversation.

**Carmen Venegas**  
**Custodian 1**  
**University Recreation Administration**

Carmen is a vital part of our custodial team. She greets everyone with a warm welcome that starts their day off right in the recreation center. Her attention to detail and care extend beyond the facility, to those she works with and serves. Carmen is devoted to her family, and we are very thankful she is a part of our team. Thank you, Carmen!





## **15 Year Honorees**

**Charlene Andrews**  
**Faculty Relations Coordinator**  
**Academic Affairs – Vice President’s Office**

Charlene Andrews has brought dedication and care to her work at CWU for 15 years. As Faculty Relations Coordinator, she is the cornerstone of faculty hiring and advancement, ensuring clarity and consistency across tenure, promotion, and post-tenure review. She is a trusted mentor and advisor for many, providing insights that support faculty with care and integrity. Her kind, steady presence makes her an indispensable part of CWU, and her love of horses reflects the same patience, dedication, and care she brings to her work each day.

**Delayna Breckon**  
**Director, Instructional Technology and Design**  
**Multimedia Technology and Instructional Support**

For the past 15 years, Delayna has served CWU in a variety of roles, always bringing unmatched creativity, collaboration, and a visionary spirit to everything she does. Whether leading the transition to online learning during the pandemic or launching the Faculty Innovative Showcase, she continually pushes boundaries and inspires those around her. Delayna is also a valued member of the CWU and Ellensburg communities, known for her ability to build lasting connections and spark meaningful change. It has been a joy to work alongside her.

**Dania Cochran**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**President's Office**

Dania Cochran moved into the role of Executive Liaison for the President's Office in 2022 and then into the role of Interim Chief of Staff in July of 2024. Before that, she was an Assistant Director of Student Development and Programs in the Office of Recreation. Her primary responsibility in her recent roles is to deepen our relationship with the local community and build bridges between Central Washington University and businesses, industries, nonprofits, and organizations. She sits on the Chamber of Commerce and was just appointed President of the Ellensburg Downtown Association board. Dania brings enthusiasm and creativity to all of her efforts and offers critical and constructive feedback that makes the university a better place to live, work, and learn.

**Linda Huber**  
**Administrative Assistant 4**  
**Academic Affairs – Vice President's Office**

Linda Huber is an invaluable asset to the Provost's Office. Her deep institutional knowledge and ability to navigate complex issues make her the go-to person when challenges arise. Whether tracking down information or resolving difficult problems, Linda consistently goes above and beyond with professionalism and dedication. Her willingness to help and her strong commitment to CWU are evident in everything she does. We are grateful for her outstanding contributions and unwavering support every day.

**Ying Jendrycka**  
**Custodian 1, Custodial Services**

Congratulations to Ying on 15 incredible years of service to CWU! As the heart and soul of Sparks Hall, Ying brings warmth, kindness, and a welcoming spirit to everyone who walks through the doors. Known for her delicious food and fascinating stories, Ying has a special way of making everyone feel at home. We are so grateful for the care and dedication she has shared with us over the years. Thank you, Ying, for being the sparkle at Sparks!

**Gerri Lems**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 3, Mechanical Shop**

Gerri has provided exceptional work as a welder fabricator for CWU. His skill, dedication, and attention to detail have greatly contributed to the safety and efficiency of our campus. Your professionalism, craftsmanship, and willingness to go above and beyond are truly valued. Facilities appreciates your hard work and commitment, and we are grateful to have you on our team. Thank you for all you do to support the university.

**Merri Elise May**  
**Residence Hall Coordinator**  
**University Housing and New Student Programs**

Elise joined the Housing and Residence Life team a few years into her CWU journey and quickly became a valued member of the apartment area. She genuinely cares for the student staff she supervises and the students she supports. Known for her ability to relate to others through her wide-ranging and often unexpected experiences, Elise embodies the spirit of "caring." Over her 15 years with Housing and Residence Life, she has adapted to countless changes while remaining deeply committed to serving students. CWU is fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate employee.

**Merridy Rennick**  
**Assistant Director, Career Services**  
**Career Services Westside**

For 15 years at Central, Merridy has centered her work on student support and career readiness. A strong advocate, she meets each student with empathy and practical guidance, helping them navigate uncertainty with confidence. Now Assistant Director of Career Services, Merridy draws on her roots in outdoor education to guide students through questions of identity, purpose, and possibility. She's more than a career advisor—she's a compassionate partner in helping students find and follow their path.

**Sue Wright**  
**Program Support Supervisor 1**  
**Special Education Technology Center**

While Sue is receiving a 15-Year Employee Appreciation Award, many may not realize she has actually contributed 25 years of service to CWU through various grants and roles at CWU, including the past 15 years in her current position at the Special Education Technology Center. Sue is a gifted mentor to student employees, a creative force in our outreach, and a steady support to our statewide team. CWU students, staff, and the Ellensburg community are lucky to have her talents here—and her impact reaches families and educators across Washington State.



## **20 Year Honorees**

**Toni Burvee**  
**Director, Business Services**  
**Business Services**

Celebrating 20 years of dedication, professionalism, and leadership at Central Washington University! Toni's unwavering commitment to excellence in Business Services has shaped a legacy of innovation and efficiency, strengthening the university's operations and impact. Through challenges and successes, your integrity and expertise have inspired colleagues and elevated standards. This milestone is a testament to your passion and hard work. Congratulations on this well-earned recognition—here's to continued success and many more achievements ahead!

**William Everett**  
**Custodian 1, Custodial Services**

Congratulations to William "Chris" Everett on 20 years of dedicated service to CWU! Known for his easygoing attitude and trademark Hawaiian shirts, Chris is a true asset to our community. He supports students with kindness, encouragement, and a deep knowledge of university operations, always ready to lend a hand with a smile and a reassuring, "No problem." We're so proud to celebrate this milestone with you, Chris – here's to many more years together at CWU!

## **Rex Flake**

### **PANGA Field Engineer, Geological Sciences**

Rain or shine, snow or hail, Rex has kept the Pacific Northwest Geodetic Array, which comprises roughly 200 continuously operating GPS stations distributed around Washington, Oregon and northernmost California, operating and feeding data to thousands of users around the globe. His gung-ho, solve any problem any time has been crucial to CWU's long-term success and partnerships with USGS, NASA and the National Science Foundation. Thank you, Rex!

## **Rafael Gomez-Vilchis**

### **Sports Equipment Manager 2 Sport and Movement Studies**

Rafael is completing his eighth year as the Sport Equipment Manager for the Department of Sport and Movement Studies (SAMS). His primary responsibility is to support the Physical Activity and Physical Education and School Health (PESH) programs. He procures and maintains equipment, then ensures that equipment is set up for the myriad of classes we offer over logistically challenging classrooms, gyms, and fields. Better put, he is the “glue” to all that we do in SAMS!

## **Brian Holmgren**

### **Procurement and Supply Specialist 1 Central Stores**

Celebrating 20 years of dedication and professionalism at Central Washington University! Brian's unwavering commitment to excellence as a Procurement and Supply Specialist has supported university operations through commitment and efficiency. His integrity, expertise, and dedication have set high standards; inspiring colleagues and driving success. This milestone is a testament to his passion and hard work—congratulations on this well-earned recognition!

**Heather Johnson**  
**Preservation and Museum Specialist 5**  
**Department of Art and Design**

Heather Johnson has been the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery manager for 20 years! Heather's position fully supports the academic mission and curriculum of the department. The art and design faculty are indebted to her for her selfless commitment to making the gallery program one of best. She is an integral part of the Department of Art and Design. Her service to the department and the community is impeccable. Heather is amazingly organized and efficient. She is a professional in every sense of the word. She has earned my respect numerous times and the respect of all the faculty. Congratulations on reaching 20 years!

**Jeffrey Mitchell**  
**Maintenance Mechanic 2**  
**Building Repair and Maintenance**

Jeff is a valued member of Facilities. His expertise, hard work, and commitment have kept our campus safe and welcoming. Your behind-the-scenes efforts, reliability, and professionalism are truly appreciated. We are grateful for your contributions and the lasting impact you have made. Thank you for your hard work and outstanding service!

**Traci Pantano**  
**Data Consultant 2**  
**School of Education**

The School of Education recognizes Traci Pantano's 20 years of exceptional service and dedication. Traci has held several positions within education and most recently became our data and assessment expert. Traci's deep knowledge and meticulous attention to detail ensures our data is accurate and impactful. Students and faculty appreciate her helpful support. We celebrate that her work led to the first complete state data report in years. Thank you, Traci, for being our trusted and invaluable data expert!

**Mal Stewman**  
**Director, Diversity and Equity Center**  
**Diversity and Social Justice**

Mal has been a steadfast leader, advocate, and changemaker at CWU for over 20 years. His leadership in the current transformation process of the Diversity and Equity Center into the Multicultural Center reflects his deep commitment to inclusive excellence. With a career that includes the Empowerment Center, Diversity and Social Justice, and Athletics, Mal creates spaces where students thrive and show up as their authentic selves. He is a tireless advocate for his staff and a vital leader whose impact extends beyond the MCC. We are deeply grateful for the heart, wisdom, and leadership Mal brings which has greatly enriched our division, shaping CWU in becoming a place of belonging.

**Eric Whitaker**  
**Maintenance Specialist 4**  
**Housing Facilities**

Congratulations to Eric Whitaker on 20 years of dedicated service at CWU! Since starting as a student worker in 1999, Eric has grown through the ranks to now lead the Housing Facilities team. Known for his calm demeanor, deep knowledge, and easygoing nature, Eric is respected for his kindness, humor, and problem-solving abilities. His leadership and commitment have made a lasting impact on his team and the university. Thank you, Eric, for ensuring students have a safe and comfortable home on campus.

**Jeff Wilcox**  
**Instructional and Classroom Support Technician 4**  
**Engineering Technology Safety and**  
**Construction**

Jeff has provided exceptional value and service to many programs during his time at CWU. He is an excellent problem-solver across multiple disciplines and demonstrates outstanding technical ability with software and hardware systems. We also appreciate his dedication to student success by managing organized and functional laboratories that support student learning.





## 25 Year Honorees

**Joe Bach**  
**Maintenance Specialist 4**  
**Student Union Operations**

I'm proud to recognize Joe Bach for his 25 years of service at CWU. Joe worked in Housing for many years before moving to the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) as our Maintenance Specialist 4. As a forward-thinking leader, Joe has continuously championed initiatives that align with our values, driving meaningful change and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. His exceptional mentorship and professionalism have inspired his colleagues, paving the way for personal and team growth. Joe enjoys the camaraderie of working with people and brings a fun-loving spirit that energizes the rest of the team. Joe's contributions to the SURC and our students are a testament to his vision and excellence, and we are honored to have him be a part of our team. Congratulations Joe!

**Jason Berthon-Koch**  
**Director, Police and Public Safety**  
**University Police and Public Safety**

For a quarter of a century, Chief Berthon-Koch has been a steady force, ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Jason has demonstrated not just expertise in law enforcement, but an unwavering commitment to fostering a secure, inclusive, and positive campus environment. Whether it's through innovative safety programs, emergency response preparedness, or building strong relationships with students and faculty, his leadership has shaped our university's community policing and safety standards. Jason, thank you for your dedication, for your many years of service, and for the positive impact you've made on our campus and beyond.

**Kirsten Garland**  
**Wildcat Printing Manager**  
**Wildcat Printing**

Wow, 25 years ago Kirsten began working at CWU briefly in Human Resources, then landed the dream job at Wildcat Printing where she currently leads the efforts at delivering excellent print and copy services to the campus community. Kirsten is known for her high-quality approach, ensuring everything coming out of Wildcat Printing is at the highest quality standards. Kirsten is often found spending extra time completing rush job that someone needs done yesterday. Kirsten is known for her hospitality and is known to throw down quite a party. Kirsten's commitment to serving the campus and her extensive friend network is invaluable. Thank you, Kirsten, for dedicating so much of your professional life to ensuring CWU receives the best! Thank you for giving us 25 years of excellence! We look forward to the next 25!

**Heather Harrell**  
**Post Awards Manager**  
**Financial Services**

Today, we proudly recognize Heather Harrell for TWENTY-FIVE years of dedicated service to Central Washington University as the Post Awards Manager in Financial Services – Grant Accounting. Heather's unwavering commitment, expertise, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the success of countless grant-funded initiatives. Her attention to detail and deep understanding of financial stewardship have helped shape a stronger, more efficient grants program at CWU. Beyond her professional excellence, Heather has been a trusted colleague, mentor, and leader. Her kindness, dependability, and collaborative spirit have made an indelible impact on all who have had the privilege to work alongside her. She is also great at organizing the icebreakers for our staff meetings. Heather, your hard work and dedication over the past twenty-five years have left an incredible legacy. Thank you for your years of service, your professionalism, and the countless ways you have contributed to CWU's success. We celebrate you today and always! Congratulations on this remarkable milestone!

**Lynn Hutchins**  
**Information Technology Business**  
**Analyst – Journey**  
**Enterprise Application Support**

Lynn has been supporting the Human Resource Management System for over 15 years. She is responsible for supporting various modules within the HR system, always providing exceptional customer service. Lynn is detail-oriented, dependable, and always demonstrates professionalism in her work. She is our go-to for anything budget related or query related, amongst many other things. In addition to Lynn's technical skills, she enjoys traveling and getting outside to hike. Lynn is truly an asset to CWU, and we're lucky to have her on the team! Congratulations Lynn on your 25 years at CWU!

**Jeff Knackstedt**  
**Information Technology System**  
**Administration – Journey**  
**Computer Support Services**

Jeff came to CWU in the early 90s to pursue his degree. He joined the Computer Lab support team as a student employee which began his journey into the world of Apple computing. He graduated in 1999 with a degree in ADMG Retail Management, but never ventured into that area as CWU snatched him up to be a permanent employee supporting the Macintosh environment across campus. In addition to being the Mac support and knowledge guru he also was the Frasca technician for the flight simulators for several years. When Jeff isn't doing all things Mac, he enjoys cycling, camping, and traveling. Jeff, your CSS co-workers along with many CWU staff members, appreciate your dedication to CWU and the support you provide. Thanks!

**Nicki Kukar**  
**Executive Director Office of International**  
**Studies and Programs (OISP)**  
**International Studies and Programs**

Congratulations to Nicki Kukar on 25 years of service to CWU! As Executive Director of International Studies and Programs, Nicki is a passionate leader helping CWU students engage with the world. She works tirelessly to support international students, ensuring they feel welcomed and have experiences that last a lifetime. She is an equally passionate champion of study abroad opportunities, helping CWU students broaden their horizons through life-changing global experiences. Nicki's dedication has made a lasting impact on our university and the lives of countless students and is reflected in the stories students share about the way they feel seen, supported, and welcomed at CWU.

**Lynn Niemi**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Graduate Studies and Research**

As a key member of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, Lynn exemplifies responsiveness, attentiveness, and focus on detail. In her role as program coordinator for graduate faculty and students, her professionalism and grace make a significant impact every day. Moreover, Lynn's pride in SGSR's mission and history is infectious and sets the tone for continuous improvement in our services and processes. We are utterly fortunate to have Lynn as part of our team!!

**Jennifer Ryder**  
**Library and Archives Paraprofessional 3**  
**CWU Libraries**

Jennifer joined CWU Libraries in 1999, starting even earlier as a student employee in the cataloging unit. An alum of CWU, she has dedicated 25 years to acquiring, managing, and preserving CWU Libraries' collections, playing a key role in maintaining access to vital resources. Jennifer is also the unofficial historian of our collection and technical services team, keeping track of photos and stories through the years. Outside of work, she quilts with Tabitha's Peaceful Piecemakers, supports FFA, and is a 4-H project leader. Congratulations, Jennifer, on 25 years of service and for enriching our community in so many meaningful ways!

**Eric Twaites**  
**Assistant Police Chief**  
**University Police and Public Safety**

We are proud to honor Eric Twaites for his 25 years of exceptional service at CWU. Eric's leadership and ability to take on projects with ease have been invaluable. Throughout his career, he has taken on many roles, including the recent position of acting chief of police. Eric is a steady, get-things-done type of person who is always available to listen to and mentor everyone. His dedication and support have been deeply appreciated by everyone in the department. Thank you, Eric, for your outstanding commitment and service.



## **30 Year Honorees**

### **Bobbie Broderius Program Assistant Admissions**

Celebrating 30 years of employment is a huge milestone, and for Bobbi, 14 of those years have been spent in admissions, where her dedication to excellent customer service has truly shone. Bobbi has always gone above and beyond to ensure that students and parents feel heard, valued, and supported. Beyond her own work, she has been a guiding mentor to her coworkers, always ready to share her knowledge and encourage growth. Her impact is felt not only in the organization's success but in the countless lives she's touched. Bobbi's commitment, leadership, and kindness have shaped a remarkable career, and this milestone is a well-deserved celebration of her lasting legacy.

**Trish Swanson**  
**Administrative Specialist**  
**Parking Services**

We are honored to recognize Trish Swanson for her 30 years of dedicated service to the university. Trish's hard work and high sense of responsibility have been instrumental in managing budgets for four different areas, overseeing the parking system, and handling federal reporting—just some of her many roles. Beyond her professional excellence, Trish is celebrated for her humor and her unwavering willingness to help anyone at any time. We are deeply thankful for her invaluable contributions and look forward to continuing to work with her for the next 20 years. Thank you, Trish, for your exceptional commitment and service.

**Nicolaus Zentner**  
**Science Outreach and Education Coordinator**  
**Geological Sciences**

For over thirty years, Nick Zentner has utilized his uncanny ability to effectively present complex geological topics to an extremely broad audience. His ability to build connections with his students is what recruits the majority of our majors. His outreach activities reach millions by effectively sharing his passion for the importance and exciting nature of geology. Through this, he has made CWU a destination for students and members of the public alike. We greatly value Nick as a member of our department for his passion and innovation in bringing the wonders of geology to the broadest possible audience.



## **35 Year Honorees**

### **Beata Miller Library and Archives Paraprofessional 3 CWU Libraries**

Beata joined CWU Libraries in 1989 in the Brooks Library Copy Center. Her career growth has mirrored the transformation of periodicals in academic libraries—from bindery and serials technician, to department lead, to journals and e-resources specialist. She's played a vital role in ensuring access to critical resources for students and faculty. Off the clock, Beata enjoys spending time at her cabin, with outdoor activities such as fishing and snowmobiling, and hitting the tennis courts with the same energy and dedication she brings to work. Congratulations, Beata, on an incredible 35 years of service to CWU!

**Chris Timmons**  
**Senior Network Engineer**  
**Networks and Operations**

Chris Timmons has been a vital part of this university for 35 years. He started here as a student in the apprenticeship program and has served the institution ever since. Over the years, he has held many roles, primarily in network engineering, and has also served as an interim director within Information Services when needed. Chris has consistently provided outstanding service, both in a technical capacity and by facilitating collaboration across the university. He has shown an ability to lead from the front while also supporting others when appropriate. He was a direct mentor to me during my time as manager and willingly stepped back into a front-line role as needed. Chris Timmons represents the best of CWU and is a model of what many of us should aspire to as members of this community.

**Shelly Voshall**  
**Furniture Repairer**  
**Upholstery Services**

With 35 years of service at Central Washington University, Shelly Voshall has demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work. Her time began at CWU in the custodial department where she built a reputation for reliability and always putting forth her best effort. In her current role in the Housing and Residence Life Upholstery Shop, Shelly's expertise in furniture repair and upholstery ensures a well-maintained and welcoming environment for students and staff. Her commitment to quality and campus life has made her an invaluable asset, reflecting her passion for service and excellence. Through her skills and dedication, Shelly continues to enhance CWU's living spaces with care and professionalism.



## 45 Year Honoree

### **Mark Walker Utility Worker 2 Custodial Services**

Today, we celebrate Mark and the extraordinary milestone of 45 years of dedicated service at CWU in Facilities Management. Through decades of change, growth, and progress, he has remained a constant. His experience, vast knowledge, steady presence, and quiet confidence have made him the person everyone turns to. Around here, the motto is: “Ask Mark—he’ll know” or “Ask Mark—he’ll fix it.” And without fail, he does. Mark has been more than just a coworker, he has been a mentor, a problem-solver, and a friend who is always ready to lend a hand or share a story. Thank you Mark for everything you have shared with us, your remarkable service, dedication, wisdom, and kindness. We are honored to celebrate this achievement with you. Congratulations!



## Employees of the Month

### **Civil Service Employees of the Month**

July	Mackenzie Erickson
August	Deitra Underhill
September	Claire Alderman
October	Marvin Sterkel
November	Andreina Delgado
December	Kitty Stoffle
January	Gayle Young-Dohrman
February	Jeff Wilcox
March	Casey Stewart
April	Joey Thornton
May	Kari Linnell

## Employees of the Month

### Exempt Employees of the Month

July	Megan Henderson
August	JoAnn Page
September	Julian Avalos
October	Dania Cochran
November	Melisa Corrales
December	Kirsten Boldt-Neurohr
January	Kelsey Haney
February	Juliana Lowe
March	Erin Sargent
April	Amber Darting
May	Doug Jensen

# Wildcat Way

The Wildcat Way is a university-wide commitment to service excellence--tailored specifically for CWU and embraced, communicated and supported at all levels and across all departments and programs.

---

At CWU, we pride ourselves on how we treat others.  
In everything we do, we strive to be:

**Welcoming**

**Inclusive**

**Knowledgeable**

**Responsive**

**Proud**