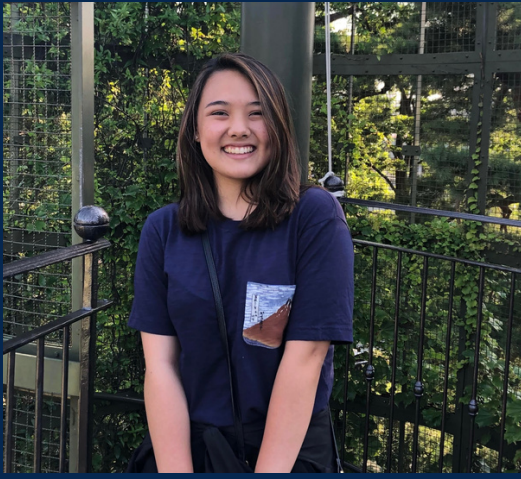


2021 National Student Employment Appreciation



National Student
Employment Association



Kaylie Hayashida

Retention/Scheduler Assistant
University of Hawaii at Manoa

HOMETOWN

Honolulu, HI

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

Although it is our busiest time of the year, I always look forward to the first week of each semester, and it is definitely a standout memory. Every semester I am truly awed by the work ethic of our team and how we are able to smoothly navigate through every request.

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Through this job I've developed confidence in myself and my abilities and have been given the opportunity to not only flourish as an individual but as a team player.

REFLECTION FROM KAYLIE'S SUPERVISOR:

During normal semesters, Kaylie embodies professionalism, eagerly seeks process improvements, and displays constant attention to every detail in preparing course schedules, assigning classrooms, and scheduling events. With the advent of COVID-19, our office could not complete its work without her constant dependability and unflagging work ethic. She makes it easy for me to do my job because I can depend on her work to be invariably correct and above-and-beyond thorough. She displays steadiness, creativity, and calm that prove she will thrive in any challenge and in her career.



Makenzie Petersen

Student Coordinator, Office of Student and Family Transitions
ONEloper Mentor
University of Nebraska - Kearney

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My many jobs on campus have shown me what it means to be a role model and what it is like to put community first. There is nothing better than to see all of your hard work pay off in the way of smiles and life-long memories of other students. I was able to build rapport not only with faculty and administration but also hundreds of students. I was able to show through my hard work that college is for everyone and that our community is something that is worth pouring hours of time and energy into. My deep passion for what UNK did for me was shown to almost anyone I was able to meet. I went from being a scared, first-generation student to being one of the first go-to students for anyone in need. For this and much more, I will always be grateful.

REFLECTION FROM MAKENZIE'S SUPERVISOR:

I've worked with Mak P as her advisor, professor, and supervisor, and in all three capacities I've been impressed by her ambition, thoughtfulness, drive, and dedication to service. She truly cares about the students of UNK, particularly first-year students. Her hard work, combined with her intelligence and ability to put people at ease, have earned her a stellar reputation among UNK's faculty, staff, and students. After she graduates this spring, her legacy will live on at UNK in the programs she helped build and the students who would not have succeeded without her support.



HOMETOWN

O'Neill, NE

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

The best aspect of a job on campus is seeing all the hard work of planning and facilitating come to fruition. The one night I remember explicitly was the night of our outdoor movie and firework show. While every aspect of the night had been planned and the partnership between First Year and LPAC had been splendid, one aspect was not accounted for. Our golf cart did not have enough energy. As the sun went down, our office of three was not only rushing to get to the show but also pushing our golf cart uphill to get some charge on the back of an academic building. It was times like this that made the job fun and memorable.



Jared Garcia

Digital Media Production Crew
Monmouth University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Production Services has given me the space to learn in an inclusive, educational environment. Over the years, I have collaborated with co-workers from different communities and socio-economic backgrounds, being influenced by new ideas of filming and editing that I wouldn't have thought of independently had I not worked here. The videos I've been able to work on through Production Services have also exposed me to a wide range of societal complexities and social activism. One such project I participated in, HABCore (a non-profit, housing organization) allowed me to engage with disenfranchised men and women working to get back on their feet. Participating in this project allowed me to explore, through interviewing volunteers and program participants, the positive changes an organization can have within an existing system. All these elements have helped shape a worldview for me, one where new ideas influence the way I think.

REFLECTION FROM JARED'S SUPERVISOR:

Quintessential Jared: there when you need him, happy to lend a hand, willing to devote his personal time to assist his workmates. Jared is just a genuinely nice person.... For Jared his approach to work is one of respect, responsibility to one's self and others, discipline, perseverance, and commitment.... Many younger communication students at Monmouth look up to him for guidance and technical advice on campus. No matter their age, gender, or technical level, Jared can be found during his lunch break or after class teaching others. He has tremendous patience and is willing to transfer his extensive creative knowledge to anyone. Outside of work he is often seen in the hallways answering a question, jumping behind a camera to help a student project, or lending an ear to a fellow student who is feeling down or overwhelmed. He is simply the go to guy in the Plangere building on campus. He is like an ancient sage, thoughtful, respectful, and wise.... Not only is he an indispensable member of our team, in his spare time he has managed to direct and edit his own feature film. We just received word that it has been selected for the Garden State Film festival as well as others. To put it simply Jared is a phenom. We will remember the name Jared Garcia, whether he is the Monmouth University Employee of the Year 2021 or picking up his Oscar years from now.



HOMETOWN

Howell, NJ

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My fondest memory here involved learning the Ronin-S, a handheld gimbal created for DSLR cameras. I recall the hours I spent inside an edit suite, first trying to understand how each gimbal piece came together. Then, I had to go the extra mile to understand the art of "balancing" this gimbal with the DSLR camera I was given. Though the task was arduous and required me to do copious amounts of research (over a 1-year period), finally having all these moving parts operating cohesively was such a rewarding experience.



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Beatrice Dain

Archive Assistant, Institute on World War II and
the Human Experience
Florida State University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job as an archive assistant has given me more opportunities than I could have imagined. Not only have I worked with original primary documents, but I have made a real contribution to the Institute through creating finding aids, or collection descriptions for researchers. My work at the Institute also led me down the path to undertake my own archival research project. Alongside my job at the Institute, I completed an undergraduate honors thesis focusing on refugee resettlement in Latin America during World War II. The skillset I gained through my job allowed me to easily navigate finding aids from other archives and hold a deeper understanding of the events of World War II. Both of these have proved immensely useful in the historical analysis for my paper.

REFLECTION FROM BEATRICES'S SUPERVISOR:

Beatrice can do it all. Over the last two years, she has written and published over 60 findings aids to individual collections held by the Institute on World War II. These finding aids permit scholars, students, journalists, and the general public to locate the letters, diaries, photographs, and objects from the World War II generation. A leader, Beatrice has been instrumental in training new interns in the Archives Space program and mentoring them. She has represented the Institute before a college level committee assessing the work of the Institute and stewarded donors to the Institute's collections. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic scholars and graduate students have been unable to travel to our institution, Beatrice has taken the lead in responding to their research requests and locating relevant collections to digitize for them. An outstanding analytical thinker and a top-notch copyeditor, she has regularly reviewed drafts of correspondence and other related documents related to the Institute.



HOMETOWN

Gainesville, FL

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

One of my favorite memories from the Institute was working with the donor of an archival collection I processed in Spring 2020. Inside the collection were a series of home videos that the donor's family recorded on 8mm film. The donor had never seen the contents of these videos. We realized that the footage contained recordings of the donor's deceased brother whom he never met and his parents. Through the Institute, we digitized portions of this film and invited the donor for a screening. Together, we watched each of the video clips which only lasted a few minutes. This moment felt incredibly special. For the donor, this was the first time he saw footage of his older brother. For me, this moment served not only as a reminder of the importance of my work for future researchers but also the value it holds for the families who entrust the memories and legacies of their loved ones to the Institute.



Daylin Dennis

Simulation Technician, Clinical Simulation Learning Center
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job has given me an idea of what a healthy work environment is and countless skills that will follow me throughout my life. I have learned so much about the medical field, teaching, and problem solving. It has allowed me to continuously demonstrate leadership and responsibility.

REFLECTION FROM DAYLIN'S SUPERVISOR:

Daylin always exceeds expectations in everything she does. I can depend on results when I present her with any task. She has become my go to person, especially when we have a challenging or difficult job. Daylin is always a pleasure to work with and brings a sense of humor (and a smile) to every task.

Daylin came to us with ambitions of becoming a Dentist by following a biology track. She utilizes the medical terminology and pharmacology she has picked up from her experiences with her job to further her career goals. Her interactions with faculty and students have caused many to ask her if she is a nursing student. During the past year, the Simulation Center has developed from scratch, an Electronic Health Record for simulation. Daylin has become proficient in creating simulation patient health records that resemble actual health records. Thus, further immersing students into the reality of the simulation.

As I attempt to quantify Daylin's contributions, even I am amazed by how much of an impact her work has had on students, faculty, and the campus. To summarize this last year, if I could hire Daylin full time, I WOULD!



HOMETOWN

Thornton, CO

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is when we were running our OB/GYN simulation and my role was to tech the robot giving birth. I made the students who were my "family members" in the sim act like I was all for this natural birth with no drugs. I made them and the students assisting the delivery sing "Kumbaya" terribly with me to help my labor. It was very fun (and pre-COVID)!



Jacob Rose

Student Assistant Manager
Iowa State University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

Working for ISU Dining has given me the opportunity to grow as a professional, a leader, and an employee. When I first started at ISU Dining as a student employee in Fall, 2017, I already had around four years of work experience in the food/customer service industry. However, I was still very shy and lacked experience in decision-making, problem-solving, and leadership. My progression through the student employment ranks at ISU Dining helped me gain experience in all of these categories and so much more. Additionally, during my time in the Quality Assurance Department, I have gotten the opportunity to fully express the skills I have gained over the years while gaining real-world experience in my prospective field: Management Information Systems.

REFLECTION FROM JACOB'S SUPERVISOR:

In addition to having demonstrated problem solving skills, an exceptional understanding of current technologies, proven abilities to effectively communicate and collaborate with all levels and background of co-workers, and proven leadership skills, Jacob Rose is also a terrific co-worker and a great person to be around. He is an effective listener, which not only enables him to understand the needs of his co-workers but facilitates good internal and external working relationships. And while Jacob is reserved and quiet, he is at the same time strong and self-confident. He is self-reliant and self-motivated but is also a team-player, accepting advice and guidance willingly and easily. Jacob is receptive to the ideas and needs of those around him, and his peers like and respect him. His current co-worker, Alexias Townsend QA student food safety specialist says this about Jacob, "Between his work ethic, his communication skills, and all-around character, Jacob is someone that I have come to look up to. I know without a doubt that ISU Dining is a better place because of his contributions." Jacob is a natural leader who earns the respect of his team members by giving to them the same amount of respect. He is a deeply ethical person with great integrity. He has been entrusted with great responsibility and in turn he has rewarded ISU Dining with progressive and creative ideas, dependability, and honesty. It is this maturity and ability to articulate his strengths and knowledge, which will allow for continued professional growth opportunities within ISU Dining and beyond.



HOMETOWN

Maplewood, MN

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

I have a lot of great memories from my student employment at Iowa State University, so it is very difficult to choose a favorite. However, one memory that immediately came to mind was the launch of the Secret Shopper program for ISU Dining. Developing and managing ISU Dining's secret shopper program was one of the big projects I was assigned in Fall, 2020. This project required the creation of the system to collect data as well as the recruitment, training, ongoing contact and recruiting of the shoppers, and the maintenance of the system. Although I knew there was still a lot of work to be done after the initial launch, it was really nice to see all of our work come together.





Rachel Reyes

Peer Catalyst and Peer Catalyst Mentor at the Learning Commons
Quinnipiac University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job has given me the ability to see my potential. I was a shy individual when I started this job sophomore year. Though, throughout every semester, I was pushed to act outside of my comfort level and with that fostered confidence, the ability to think on my feet, the ability to take initiative and lead, and more interpersonal skills that I did not have before having this job. Additionally, my job has given me a family regardless of what positions we are in. I know that I can walk away from this job having created long term personal and professional relationships with everyone I have worked with.

REFLECTION FROM RACHEL'S SUPERVISORS:

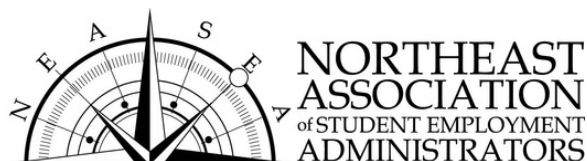
If you want to find Rachel Reyes in a crowded room, look for the animated discussion that's happening around the woman with a matcha in hand. Rachel Reyes's tireless enthusiasm for her job as a Peer Catalyst combines with her ability to initiate fundamental improvements in the program to distinguish her in a staff of enthused and committed peer educators. When she meets with fellow PCs, even as their mentor, the conversation is always lively, and people are happily engaged. Rachel makes work fun. Her insights as both a student and Peer Catalyst sparked innovations and expansion of the PC program to new academic departments with relevant and much needed experiential learning opportunities for students. She embodies the mission of the program - to provide assistance to fellow students - and she does so with a spirit of leadership based on her belief in the value and potential in all students.

HOMETOWN

Somerset, NJ

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite Student Employment Memory was when I was able to see my college experience come full circle in relation to my job and my major, Biology. This past summer 2020, I pitched the implementation of Peer Catalysts (Peer educators) into BIO150/151 classrooms, which are freshmen level biology courses, to my supervisors, Rita Offiaeli and Bernard Grindel. They trusted me to spearhead this project the whole Summer, from coordinating meetings with faculty to being able to plan out how a peer educator would work in this class setting as there never has been one. Through the guidance and hardwork put into the project, I was able to see how it come to light first hand. I was approved permission to have Peer Catalysts into all the BIO 150 series courses and be an actual peer educator in one with my freshman Biology professor for this class!



Lamisa Mustafa

Student Coordinator, Human Rights Program
Southern Methodist University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

It is difficult, if not impossible, to fully express how much my time working for the SMU Human Rights Program has given and meant to me. I can only hope for my time at future workplaces to be comparable to this experience. From confronting the intimate and systemic struggles of human rights work with me to supporting me through personal tragedy, the SMU Human Rights team has powerfully shaped the person I want to be and the impact I aspire to have in the world. Through this position, I've been able to craft and implement projects from scratch, build organizational capacity, and forge lifelong relationships. The greatest joy, and biggest responsibility, of working for the program is knowing that my input and effort are always deeply valued. I don't know of any other organization on my campus or beyond that would dedicate as much individualized time, care, and attention toward a student employee, her work, and her career trajectory. Through navigating the granular, day-to-day realities of human rights education alongside the SMU Human Rights community of scholar-activists, I am emerging from my undergraduate journey with so much more than 4 academic years of professional experience. I am leaving with a singular model of how much goodness and transformative social change can come from centering justice in all aspects of work. I am leaving with a chosen family.

REFLECTION FROM LAMISA'S SUPERVISOR:

As Associate Director of the SMU Human Rights Program, I have come to regard Lamisa as one of the finest persons - and probably the single best student - I have encountered in my decades-long teaching career. Her intelligence, courage, focus, and passion are exceedingly rare and have made her universally admired and respected. Lamisa's gift for leading with integrity has been proven through her four-year tenure as a student worker in our office. Only the most promising students are offered this opportunity to gain practical experience in helping administer our academic, travel, and community initiatives. Lamisa has made crucial contributions to virtually all of our most important endeavors, including with our Human Rights Youth Summit, North Texas Human Trafficking Conference, Triumph of the Spirit Awards Celebration, Human Rights Leadership Development Workshop, and Dignity Endowment Fundraising Campaign. She also offers brilliant guidance to our social media (as the main content creator and strategist), high school recruitment, and global human rights education trips. Lamisa's substantial performance and reliable presence have earned her full and equal recognition among our staff. She has tirelessly given so much of herself to the SMU community and made our program (as well as the entire campus) better, stronger, and kinder in innumerable ways. I simply cannot imagine a better recipient of the prestigious Student Employee of the Year award.



HOMETOWN

Carrollton, TX

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

From mentoring prospective students to celebrating increased social media visibility, every moment of working for SMU Human Rights has been a joy and honor. One memory that rises above others is my experience leading our first-ever Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) Pilgrimage. I only pursued the project because of SMU Human Rights staff who believed in my potential to co-create week-long programming about historical and contemporary social justice issues facing APIA peoples. Every aspect of the pilgrimage — from representing the program in engagements with local leaders to navigating difficult group discussions about privilege and oppression — challenged me to apply my human rights education. My team members offered any support necessary throughout every step of the planning process, thereby equipping me to both facilitate experiential learning opportunities for participants and also gain an intimate understanding of my own communities' histories. The trip could not have come together without the multitude of resources that SMU Human Rights provided me in bolstering and enacting my vision.





Ruby LeClair

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
Coordinator
Western Washington University

HOMETOWN

Sammamish, WA

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

I have really enjoyed working as the VITA Coordinator this year, and it is hard to pick a favorite memory. However, one which stands out in my mind was during the beginning of this year's tax season. There was one volunteer who was very anxious about completing a full tax return. When she first met with a taxpayer, though, the process went smoothly, and the return ended up being successfully e-filed with the IRS. This moment was meaningful to me because I got to see a volunteer gain confidence in applying tax law and build their skill set. Additionally, this moment made me proud to be the coordinator for the VITA program because the taxpayer was so grateful for the free assistance.

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job as VITA Coordinator has given me several things. First, it has given me the opportunity to help people who need assistance file their taxes for free. This allows me to provide a service to my community and help others in a meaningful way. Additionally, this job has given me very valuable experience in the tax preparation field managing others, coordinating events, and using various software systems. Because of my job, I feel capable to prepare and review tax returns, work with a diverse range of people, and manage multiple technology platforms.

REFLECTION FROM RUBY'S SUPERVISOR:

Ruby is able to handle a variety of tasks and situations with aplomb. She is warm and welcoming with taxpayers who need assurance that their financial data will be secured, and their tax returns will be correctly filed. She is supportive of the volunteers and instills in them the confidence they can complete their tasks effectively. Finally, I can give any task to Ruby with the utmost confidence it will be completed efficiently and effectively with little oversight and input. Ruby exhibits a level of confidence and maturity the belies her age.



Rylee Newton

Music & Marketing Assistant
The College of St. Scholastica

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

The job has given me invaluable experience in teaching, building professional relationships, and making sure an organization is living out its mission and values - both in small, everyday interactions and in big picture decisions. It has also taught me what it truly means to be passionate about the work that you do. I hope to embody the humility and dedication that my mentors have demonstrated in all that I do.

REFLECTION FROM RYLEE'S SUPERVISOR:

As a student seeking a career in music education, Ms. Newton began her work with our organization in 2017 to receive hands-on experience working directly with youth choirs under the guidance of a master teacher. After only a few short months, it was clear to the rest of the staff that her work at LSYC was exceptional and that she would excel with additional responsibilities to support program operations and administration. Throughout her time with the organization she has organically taken on the management of all social media accounts and the development of the organization's website in addition to her continuous work directing the choirs. It is easy to prove that much of the growth, development, and success of the programs at Lake Superior Youth Chorus is a direct result of the exceptional work Ms. Newton has done for our organization. Her impressive work has compelled me to nominate her so that she can be recognized for her substantial accomplishments.



HOMETOWN

Jordan, MN

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is from our Honor Choir event last year. I was bragging about how awesome the students sounded on a song I'd been rehearsing with them, and the director said, "Let's add it to today's concert. You can lead it." It was so special because in that moment, I knew that he trusted my judgment and my abilities. When I told the singers that we were adding the song, they were totally on board. That was when I knew that they also trusted me, and that was just as meaningful.



Mikayla Reynolds

Peer Coach
University of Maine

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

This job has given me a lot of great skills in working with and communicating with others. I have learned to meet students where they are and tailor my approach and responses to their needs and goals. It has been extremely rewarding!

REFLECTION FROM MIKAYLA'S SUPERVISOR:

Mikayla's drive, and her instinct to always act/communicate with intention, are unparalleled in my experience. My standards for professionalism are exacting, and she exceeds them, every time. She comports herself with integrity, compassion, and a quiet, compelling leadership style that moves our team ever forward.



HOMETOWN

Waterville, ME

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

One of the most rewarding aspects of this position is when students share their personal story with me. This shows me I've done what was necessary to create a welcoming and supportive space. Once, a student and I were scheduled for scholarship coaching. I began with our traditional check-in, a space to share topics I may not have planned for. After this, we moved into essay brainstorming...the student said they were overwhelmed and unsure what to do.... This student cried and spoke with me about some troubling circumstances unrelated to scholarships. The following 40 minutes I listened to them, asked questions and affirmed their feelings. We spoke about some actionable items, but I didn't feel the student was content. So, I cancelled my next appointment and offered for the student to stay. The student just needed some support!



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Emily Albiter

Thrifty Manager
Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services
Oklahoma State University

WHAT MY JOB HAS GIVEN ME:

My job has given me a place where I feel secure and content. It has given me time to find a role for myself in Stillwater, being that I am from Tulsa.

REFLECTION FROM EMILY'S SUPERVISOR:

Emily is so friendly, positive and persistent, it is easy to see why clients and customers love her! She is dependable and is also extremely dedicated to her work. Emily has done anything and everything she can to keep Thrifty Butterfly open during the pandemic. Emily has also served clients of Wings of Hope during the pandemic by tutoring clients' children. She truly has a heart of gold and is impressively resilient.



HOMETOWN

Tulsa, OK

FAVORITE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MEMORY:

My favorite memory is working with the past manager of the store. Carol was amazing; I always loved working with her. She understood the college life of a student and she was so easy to work with.



Thank!
you!

NSEA would like to thank all of the student employees across the nation. We recognize your dedication and contributions to your college or university and its surrounding community. We could not do this work without your support!

In an unprecedented year, NSEA and the SEOTY committee chose to take the opportunity to recognize the hard work from not only the regional winners of Student Employee of the Year but of other noteworthy contributions. Each region was asked to submit stories for its top three nominations to be submitted for this publication. Thank you to our regional chairs and our committee for assisting us in gathering these stories!



National Student
Employment Association

