



Westfield State University

Human Resources

Employee Recognition Thank you for your dedication

Listed below are the faculty and staff that were recognized by a member of our campus community for living the WSU values, carrying out the WSU Mission or going above and beyond what is required of them in their day to day duties. We included a photo if we had one.

Please join us in congratulating and acknowledging all employees who have been recognized. For the employees who elected not to have their nomination publicized we acknowledge and thank you for all that you do on our campus. We would like to thank our campus community members for taking the time to recognize their fellow colleagues.

Simone Backstedt *Financial Aid*



Thank you for making the day feel less stressful for our students in a high anxiety-provoking office. You are always welcoming and explain complicated financial aid matters in clear, layperson terms. You are a team player and go above and beyond in your role, communicating with all necessary parties with detailed explanations. You are truly a beloved colleague and we are fortunate to have you!

Courtney Blajda *Institutional Advancement*



As the Senior Annual Giving Coordinator you have helped breathe new life into the University's Annual Fund Program. You led the charge for Westfield State's annual Day of Giving, Give a Hoot, helping raise close to \$80,000 for scholarships, athletics, and other programming and activities on campus. Making a difference with new technologies and ideas to the fundraising department.



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Sydney Maiden
Residential Life



As Resident Director of both Davis Hall and New Hall your dedication and passion shines through, not only to resident assistants, but also our students, and staff. Whether our students live in your residence halls or not, you are always there for them. You go above and beyond for staff and students purely because of the kindness in your heart. You always make sure that students are comfortable in the halls and that they are thriving in their academic and social environment.

Kathy Pitoniak
Center for Student Success and Engagement



Your contribution to Westfield State and the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) is greatly appreciated. You have been a wonderful addition to the CSSE, someone we can always count on, and a key to keeping the CSSE running smoothly. Your day changes from moment to moment, but you remain flexible and your ability to handle the unexpected proves to be invaluable every day. Also, a big THANK YOU for the “gentile” reminders when warranted.

Bryan Scott
Mathematics/Computer and Information Science



You are a vital force in the success in our Computer and Information Science (CAIS) department’s endeavors. Your hard work was the core of the success of the CAIS Student Resume Workshop and our School Accepted Students Day’s Game Building Workshop in the Spring 2022 semester! You are our secret weapon!



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Nicole “Nicky” West

Center for Student Success and Engagement



You are always going above and beyond expectations of your job as Director, Office of Course Achievement, Retention, and Engagement. Apart from sending out the regular progress reports for faculty, you are prompt in responses to faculty on how they can improve student performance.

[If you would like to recognize a colleague](#)

Employee Recognition Process: If you would like to recognize a colleague, simply send an e-mail to: celebrate@westfield.ma.edu.

In the email please include the following information:

Employee’s name and department and why you are nominating that employee for an award.

If you have a photo of your colleague please send it along with the above information.

The Employee Recognition Council will reach out to the employee letting them know they have been nominated for a peer recognition award, and they will have an option to accept it, without having it published.

Each month, with the permission of the nominated individual, we will share the names of all the employees who were nominated for this award in both NewsWise and in an HR announcement. Each month there will also be a raffle drawing and one recognized employee will receive some WSU Swag!