Awards Honor Advocates for Diversity, Inclusion and Mentoring

University Relations - Communications
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Members of the UA community were recognized for being leaders in diversity, inclusion and mentoring at the 2016 Visionary Leadership Awards ceremony.

Employees, students and programs were recognized with the Richard Ruiz Diversity Leadership Faculty Award and the Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Awards, awarded through the Office of the Provost’s Program for Inclusive Excellence. This year the Commission on the Status of Women joined in the ceremony to present its Visionary Awards — formerly called Vision Awards — and its Outstanding Mentor Awards.

"These awards are a great recognition of the diversity and the inclusion work that we do on this campus," said Andrew Comrie, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, who gave opening remarks and presented the awards at the ceremony. "The faculty, students, staff and everyone else on campus who all work together really go to great lengths to do good work in this area, and it is important that as we work on always improving the University of Arizona to make sure that we also stop and celebrate the successes that we've had."

These awards acknowledge those who have made a commitment to help the campus better by mentoring, and advocating for diversity and inclusion.

The 2016 winners are:

**CSW Emerging Visionary Award**

*Shireen Keyl, staff scientist for the Teaching Teams Program at the Lunar & Planetary Laboratory*

Keyl teaches a course that combines teaching of the scientific method with a curriculum that speaks to the experiences of Latino/Latina students.

She has had several Latino/Latina UA researchers share their experiences with students in STEM field.

She was nominated for the award because "she challenges her students to view the world through a social lens of social justice," according to her nomination letter.
"I appreciate the University of Arizona and the Commission on the Status of Women recognizing the UA faculty and staff who incorporate diversity measures in their work and research," Keyl said. "It's a great feeling to know the work we do has a positive impact on our students, and our campus community supports our academic and research endeavors."

CSW Established Visionary Award

Lisa Ordóñez, vice dean of the Eller College of Management and professor of management/organizations

Ordóñez was nominated for the award because she pushed for representation of women faculty on the tenure-track. She also meets with the Eller College Advisory Committee and other faculty committees to ensure that women's voices are heard by the University administration.

As a first-generation college student, Ordóñez has served as a role model to female students in similar situations as an Arizona Assurance Scholars Program [3] mentor.

CSW Faculty Outstanding Mentor Award

Melissa Curran, Fitch Nesbitt Associate Professor of Family Studies and Human Development

Curran was nominated by four students, who said she is "widely known as an incredibly optimistic, positive and energetic person. She contributes so positively to our department and college's environment and is everyone's biggest cheerleader."

Curran has been a faculty member at the UA since 2006

"I am so appreciative to the four students who nominated me for this award, as well as to the CSW for having this award opportunity," she said. "Mentoring students is such a wonderful experience, and I always learn so much from the students during our interactions together."

CSW Appointed Professional Outstanding Mentor Award

Michelle McKelvey, associate director for academic success and achievement at Arizona Assurance Mentorship Program.

McKelvey has paired nearly 100 undergraduates and graduate students in the Arizona Assurance Scholars Program with faculty and staff mentors across campus, with a focus on minority students.

When accepting the award, McKelvey said that when she was student at the UA, she had a mentor, who was influential in her success as a student, and she wanted to pass that experience along to other students.

CSW Classified Outstanding Mentor Award

Anne Cimarelli-Stears, Senior Health Educator, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension SNAP-ED

Cimarelli-Stears received three nominations for this award for being someone who always
shares her ideas on bettering her program and advocating for the professional growth and development on others.

Her focus is on creating nutrition lessons for member partners of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Education.

"As a graduate student, and later an employee at the University of Arizona, encouraging mentors directed and inspired me," Cimarelli-Stears said. "In a personal way, they confirmed the University's culture of fostering mentorship. Receiving the CSW Mentoring Award is an honor I proudly share with all those mentors who guided me along on my professional path."

**Richard Ruiz Diversity Leadership Faculty Award**

**Ana Cornide,** professor and outreach coordinator, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Cornide's nominator, **Melissa Fitch,** said that as soon as Cornide was hired, she was actively engaged in students' lives and helping out in the community, volunteering at all the same places she sends students to volunteer.

"I've just never seen anybody who lives and breathes this notion of engagement like she does," said Fitch about why she nominated Cornide.

Cornide has built and grown a hands-on service learning program, which has doubled in enrollment under her leadership. She has also established partnerships with organizations in Tucson in fields such as education, human rights and others.

"As a new member of the University, it is an honor to receive the Richard Ruiz award because he dedicated his life and career to fostering equality, to the work for justice and to encourage perspectives in our learning," Cornide said. "This award is not just for me. It's for my department and my students. It takes a village."

Richard Ruiz was a UA professor in the Department of Mexican American studies, whose contributions to the UA aimed to make the campus more inclusive. He passed away in 2015. This is the second year an Inclusive Excellence Award has been presented in his name.

**Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award ? Staff**

**Patty Hamilton,** assistant director of outreach and pipeline programs

In 2014, Hamilton was appointed to the Inaugural Diversity Committee, as part of the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at [College of Medicine-Phoenix](#). [4]

Since her start, she worked to support a five-week summer program that recruited 24 high school students to get a start in the health field. Now the program, called Summer Scrubs, brings in students from nearly every county in the state, including students from Native American communities. She understands the importance of diversity in the UA community and starts outreach early.

The Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Awards were created to recognize students and employees who enhance the UA by creating an inclusive environment through fostering equality, encouraging diverse perspectives, and working on recruitment and retention of a diverse campus community. The award is named for former UA President Likins, who served
from 1997-2006.

**Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award ? Student/Student Organization**

*Black Student Union*

As part of the African American Student Affairs, the Black Student Union has helped in recruitment and retention of students of color.

Members of the Black Student Union created the “Road to College Tour,” in which UA students talk to juniors and seniors in a few of Tucson's high schools about the process of transitioning from high school to college.

The Black Student Union has also been an advocate for making the campus a safe space by educating students on their rights, as well as participating in rallies and marches.

"We appreciate this award," said Trinity Goss, a member of the Black Student Union. "I feel like it's an extension from the University that they're going to be committed to working with its diverse population of students."

**Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award ? Program**

*Knowledge River*

Knowledge River, part of the *School of Information* [5], is a program that provides resources to professionals who are or are planning to serve the information needs of Latino and Native American populations.

Knowledge River has become the foremost graduate program for educating librarians, archivists and information specialists, with over 175 graduates working in libraries, museums and archives in Mexico, Australia, Canada and the United States.

The program also offers financial aid for Hispanics, Native Americans and members of diverse communities.

In addition, the following earned honorable mentions:

**Richard Ruiz Diversity Leadership Faculty Award Honorable Mention**

*Beth Weinstein, associate professor and program chair in the School of Architecture*

Weinstein has been heavily involved in recruiting a diverse population of students into the Master of Architecture degree. She has also reorganized the program to ensure student retention. With the architecture field being male-dominated, Weinstein is well-known for mentoring female students.

**Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award ? Program Recipient Honorable Mention**

*Arizona Science, Engineering and Math Scholar Program*

The *Arizona Science, Engineering and Math Scholar Program* [6], or ASEMS, provides services to support students who are pursuing degrees in STEM fields. The program has made it a priority to target students of underserved backgrounds to ensure that they stay in
school and can succeed in their STEM majors. These students include first-generation college students, low-income students, those with a disability and those from ethnic backgrounds. Of the 50 students in the first two program cohorts, 92 percent have either graduated or are still enrolled at the UA, and 95 percent of those who graduated with their bachelor's degree earned that degree in a STEM field.

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