

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Catherine Goyne, Account Specialist, Enterprise Development

Cathy is willing to listen to all ideas, no matter how different or frightening they might seem at first. She is supportive of her team members' interests and viewpoints. She has developed great relationships within our department and across campus.

Cathy has been a longtime blood donor. For 12 years she was dubbed Team Mom by Coach Cross for making cookies for all home basketball games and conference tournaments.

Cathy volunteers for Earth Day activities by preparing and serving "Lunch for \$1." She is vigilant about recycling paper products, before reordering she ensures using what is in stock.

She demonstrates service excellence by helping her coworkers with their workload and is keen on deadlines.

Cathy has work 25 years for the university dedicating her work life to service and UTA.

Ann Hoang, Administrative Services Officer, Department of Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering

Ann has made notable improvements in our human resources and accounting operations by identifying and interviewing a broad range of faculty, in particular veterans, women, and faculty of color. She is reliable in her duties, helpful to others without being asked, demonstrates humility as if she is doing nothing extraordinary. She works extremely well with our diverse student and faculty population, demonstrating a deep acceptance of all and true desire to assist.

She has also made changes to our department operations to automate many of our processes, so we are using less paper, files, and storage. Her work in automating the student petition process is an and excellent example of sustainability and has now been adopted by the entire university.

She is an outstanding Maverick for creating the MAP system (Maverick Academic Progress Report) for supporting certification for graduation for the undergrads in the College of engineering. She developed and documented it thoroughly so that the departmental admins could effectively use the system. To accomplish this, she had to make appropriate use of ImageNow workflows and OIT Services and write scripts. It has now been fully operations for several semesters.

She has been with the department since 2018 and has been instrumental in the advancement of our academic programs and administrative operations.

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Susan Mayer, Assistant to the Dean, College of Engineering

Susan has set the standard for excellence and dedication in the College of Engineering because she is the “go to person” in all areas for faculty and staff. “Susan is willing to assist in any way possible, and she always has a smiling, positive personality.” She is very responsive and always seems to know the current budget situation up to the minute.

Susan demonstrates Maverick Excellence in that she identified a need for the administrative staff across the college to be more knowledgeable about policies, administrative tasks, budget concerns, and work changes. Therefore, she established a regular bi-weekly meeting for the staff to share and created a climate of honest exchange and friendship. She created a moral booster “secret pal” to recognize accomplishments among the staff.

Her genuine interest in the lives of those around her is reflected with inquiries about families and events in our lives and always participates in staff social functions.

Dean Peter Crouch notes “Above all, what makes Susan the quintessential recipient is her sincere care for the fellow staff, faculty, departments, college of Engineering, and UTA.”

Laura Penuel, Assistant to the Dean, College of Education

Laura Penuel is an outstanding staff member in the College of Education. Unofficially, what she contributes to the College of Education is so much more. First, in relation to this category of diversity. She plays a key role in ensuring that not only do we have the most qualified candidate pool for each search we conduct (faculty and/or staff positions), but she also ensures that those pools include diverse candidates. She begins with the basics in reminding search committees that no approvals without a diverse pool will move forward. She follows up by not only ensuring that job postings appear in traditional outlets (i.e., HigherEdJobs, Chronicle) but also in publications that many diverse candidates may read.

She is active in the community. She regularly attends events on campus that support the students and university community. As an active member of the Arlington Junior League she is involved in mentoring youth and incorporating leadership and team building in activities for teenagers, and supports young women and their families who face financial hardship in attending their proms (e.g., Glass Slipper Boutique).

She has been a champion of going green in the COEd through reusing furniture and equipment found in surplus and ensuring that any unwanted or unused items are available for use elsewhere. Laura is loved by everyone in the College of Education and is a known advocate for education and UTA. As she is the person who supports new employees, she becomes their go-to person throughout their time at UTA. She always has time for a conversation or is available to offer support.

Laura continues to demonstrate service excellence by her contributions to supporting our efforts at a Tier 1 status and making it possible for faculty and staff alike to continue to grow

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the College, across Texas and nationally. Laura in 2018 was instrumental in the organization of a Statewide Special Education Summit for the almost 300 school district superintendents, principals, and special education directors who attended here at UTA. Laura was key in organizing this large event, ensuring that the facility was prepared for our needs, while also ensuring that we remained in budget. Her efforts helped to launch our visibility as an institution on the front-line special education in Texas.

TEAM AWARD

Maverick Advantage Faculty Engagement (MAFE)

Lucinda Buhrkuhl, Coordinator II, Provost Office

Susan Dequeant, Associate Director, Provost Office

Na-li Kim, Teaching Innovation Research Associate

Too often diversity is short-changed by hiring people of a variety of social backgrounds and then expecting all to fit into one majoritarian mold. Not so with MAFE. For this respectful celebration of diversity, they caught my attention, and I have been compelled to directly share my appreciation with the MAFE team. If I were to reduce to a single word, my year-long observation of this team's work, it would be 'Respect.' They respected each other and the diverse faculty they worked with.

2020-2021 was a historic year due to the pandemic. It tested our understanding and practice of diversity; it also taught us new aspects of diversity (for example universal design in virtual teaching). Our professional rituals were constantly tested by the different demands the pandemic placed on individual faculty and staff. At all times the MAFE team were sensitive, mature, and empathetic while delivering their service. Truly a model of exemplary professionalism.

The team itself is diverse and works with a community of diverse faculty (who in turn serve a diverse student body). The MAFE Team and the programming they led throughout the Academic Year, has an impact on pedagogy. In this transfer of knowledge and skill, and with their engagement, especially with Service Learning, the MAFE team has produced a cohort of community-sensitive educators. This impact has also reached the area's high school, middle school, and primary school educators. This makes them true UTA ambassadors on and off-campus. A jewel in UTA's crown.

One example of service the MAFE program facilitates a keen appreciation of service learning (SL). SL makes teaching more meaningful and rigorous. It ignites the faculty's imagination with respect to curricular content and design while also approaching education from a perspective that asks, "so what?" In other words, SL compels teachers to draw connections with a professional future. It also helps students approach their curriculum as meaningful application of their learning and an opportunity to partner with organizations in solving community needs.