2015 Staff Appreciation Week—Started on Tuesday, May 19th with a Green Eggs & Spam Breakfast, a Barn Hike, Staff Volleyball games, our Health Wellness Fair, Bobcat Sundae social, Kayak Race with our Provost, Deans and Vice Chancellor’s and was capped off with the Chancellor’s Lunch on Friday. This is where we announce our 2015 Staff Excellence Awardee’s.

2015 Staff Excellence Awards—Staff Excellence Awards are awarded to one individual nominated in each of the following five categories. Individuals may be nominated to more than one category of award, but no one person may win more than one award in the same year, nor can they win an award for the same category within three years.

- **Outstanding Customer Service and Job Performance**
  - Demonstrated and sustained outstanding performance that consistently exceeds goals and job expectations in quantity and quality, resulting in significant achievement or significant impact upon UC Merced.

- **Creativity**
  - One-time innovation or creation resulting in a significant impact on process, work flow, or department and/or unit function. This may be either reflected in efficiency gains, increased work product, or morale improvements in the department/unit.

- **Teamwork**
  - Acting as an exceptionally effective and cooperative member of a team dedicated to making positive change.
  - Demonstrating superior interactions and a positive influence on managers, peers, supervisors, subordinates, and the university community.

- **Organizational/Leadership**
  - Demonstrated extraordinary leadership resulting in the accomplishment of significant goals or objectives that serve the good of UC Merced
  - Significant UC Merced community/departmental improvement or significant project management

- **Community Involvement and Public Service**
  - Honor a UC Merced staff member who exemplifies community service in a capacity outside of their usual work assignment.
  - Personal investment and contributions made in local communities, as well as providing inspiration as a role model to encourage others to also engage in community service.
  - Excellence and extraordinary commitment in community service activities.
**Chancellor’s Innovation Awards** - The Chancellor’s Innovation Awards is designed to provide well-deserved recognition to individuals who come up with transformative ideas and reinforce the value of innovation to the entire campus community. The timing is also fortuitous as it coincides with in-depth work related to strategic workforce planning that will require novel approaches to campus organizational structures and processes.

From its founding, UC Merced has distinguished itself as a center for innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. As the campus continues to evolve and enter its next phase of development, we face challenges that will require us to be a leader among University of California campuses in organizational excellence, customer service, process efficiencies and a positive work environment. Therefore, the Chancellor is pleased to announce a new initiative that recognizes and rewards innovation among UC Merced staff.

**Update:** May 5, 2015: Thirty-four entries were submitted and of those, 10 have been selected as finalists. Finalists have until Tuesday, May 26, 2015, to submit a PowerPoint presentation or a two- to three-minute video describing their proposal.

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