



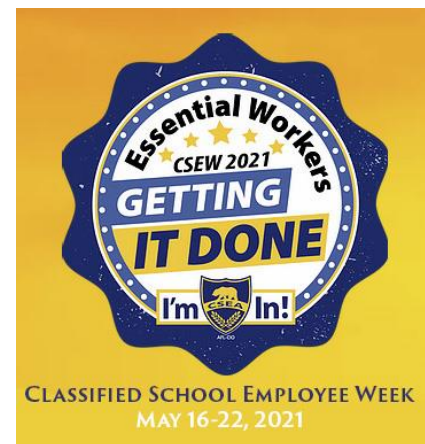
## Celebrating Our Classified Professionals

May 18, 2021

May 16-22 is Classified School Employee Week, California's annual commemoration of the crucial contributions of classified professionals. Our Governing Board will pass a resolution at this afternoon's Board meeting in recognition of the vital role of the hundreds of classified professionals in our District.

It gives me great delight to announce that also at the Governing Board meeting will be the recognition of the three sites' exemplary winners of the 2020-2021 Chancellor and Classified Senate Award: Nashona Andrade, District Services Professional Development Specialist; Sam Rigby, Grossmont College EOPS NextUp Specialist; and Natalija Worrell, Cuyamaca College Child Development Technician.

This year's Classified School Employee Week motto, "Essential Workers: Getting it Done," highlights the integral role that classified professionals play to ensure our community colleges operate effectively. Whether working from their homes providing an array of services to fellow workers and students, or joining a limited on-campus team to keep facilities secure and operational, classified professionals have shown, time and again, their essential role in getting the work done.



The three winners of the Chancellor and Classified Senate Award epitomize the "Getting it Done" motto. The breadth of their contributions through their work and collaboration with colleagues and others is the cornerstone of our students' success. This year's award focused on the districtwide push to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion within our institution. The three award recipients strongly reflect this priority in the work that they do.



**Nashona Andrade** joined the District in August 2018 in her current role as a Professional Development Specialist and has proven to be an inspiration and role model to many through her numerous connections with constituency groups through the New Employee First Year Experience, H.I.R.E training, Classified PD program, co-development of the Manager Supervisor’s DEI program, and support of Classified Senates at all three sites. Multiple co-workers nominated Nashona for this prestigious award, citing her skill at presenting and organizing trainings, webinars and events that have brought about a genuine culture change in the District. They expressed appreciation for her efforts to make difficult conversations an opportunity to build trust and open avenues of communication.



**Sam Rigby** has worked for the past four years as a Program Specialist for Grossmont College’s NextUp, a state-funded program designed to provide extra support to foster youth transitioning to independent living. Before joining the EOPS NextUp program, he was a Student Services Assistant with Grossmont’s Assessment Office. The former foster youth and Cuyamaca College alum is lauded for the many creative ways he supports students in NextUp, and also for contributing to the college’s efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Among other DEI-related initiatives, he is credited for promoting attendance at the A2MEND Conference, which focuses on serving Black males in college. He brought back what he learned from the event to begin the process of founding an A2MEND chapter at Grossmont. Sam’s colleagues that nominated him also expressed appreciation for his strong efforts to support the mission of EOPS – serving students who have been historically underrepresented and marginalized in higher education.



**Natalija Worrell** has worked at her current post as a Child Development Center Technician for the past seven years, but her history with Cuyamaca College’s CDC dates back to 2007 when she was a student majoring in Child Development. As a technician at Cuyamaca’s CDC, she helps run the day-to-day functions, handling enrollment and standing in as a teacher when needed. She also plans family events, including the annual Crossing the Bridge ceremony for children moving on to kindergarten. As the Classified Senate president at the college, Natalija is credited by colleagues for elevating the voice of classified professionals in governance, including her contributions to the newly designed governance structure. Her work to advance diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected in her contributions to the president’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Task Force, including her participation in Cuyamaca’s Diversity in Hiring Inquiry Group.

I could not be more appreciative of the valuable contributions of these award winners, as well as the districtwide community of classified professionals. Please join me in hearty congratulations to this top-notch trio, as well as celebrating the fantastic contributions of each and every classified professional. You are truly admired and appreciated!

With sincere gratitude,

**Lynn**

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.

Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District