

BRAVO
February 26

Nominator: Tim Hohn, Horticulture
Vanessa Halverson and Susan Loreen

Vanessa Halverson: My tenure at EdCC has been immeasurably buoyed and enriched by the expertise, dedication, sensitivity and unwavering good cheer of Vanessa Halverson. She answers all my questions with definitive and perceptive answers. She reminds me of missed or overlooked protocols and upcoming deadlines with the sensitivity of a counselor. I've routinely encountered Vanessa with a smile and warm hello in the midst of Division paper storms that would have soured Father Flannigan. Her attitude, accessibility, and dedication to supporting our Division have often served as a professional life raft for me.

Susan Loreen: I've had a diverse and interesting career path and consequently the pleasure to be guided by a host of interesting supervisors and leaders. No one has supported and assisted me with the compassionate and kind professionalism of Susan Loreen. No one I've worked for has been as open, accessible, objective, and engaging as Susan. I certainly come up with my share of hair-brained ideas and schemes but I've never felt that I couldn't share them with Susan. She's an intent, engaging, and sympathetic listener; a leader that instills confidence in me to explore ideas and search for new solutions. Susan has a wonderful capacity for sensitive steering if she sees a clearer, more suitable route to reaching my goals than I. She's the kind of encouraging, nurturing leader that inspires me to better work.

Nominator: Rae Ellen Reas (Dean of Enrollment and Financial Service)
Nanci Froemming, Leon Golden-Novak, Janet Biggs, Chris Bell, MiChelle Thorsen

Nanci Froemming, Leon Golden-Novak, and Janet Biggs: These three employees were responsible for implementing the Wait List pilot project for the campus during winter quarter registration. Nanci coordinated the effort, and handled a great deal of communication with faculty and students. Janet was responsible for making sure students were properly notified once they were moved into wait listed classes. A special thank you goes to Leon who worked tirelessly in handling most of the technical problems related to having the process automated and working properly. He spent countless hours reading technical manuals, working with IT and experimenting with enrollment to ensure everything was working as needed. I gave them relatively short notice that we would proceed with a pilot program, and they all stepped up and took on the challenge while also maintaining their regular work.

Chris Bell came into the department with great skills, but relatively little experience with our enrollment and reporting processes. He has learned and processed an amazing amount of information, including technical processes, during a very short period of time, while also getting to know his staff and learn the culture of Student Services. You would be hard-pressed to figure out that he is the newest member of our team.

Chris has also brought his passion for learning and teaching into Student Services, which has allowed staff to think about things in a different way, and to expand their knowledge of the world, education and the learning process. He is thoughtful in his contributions, and we are very fortunate to have him on our team.

Michelle Thorsen is very nearly solely responsible for the implementation of the Higher One system of disbursing financial aid funds to students. Others helped and supported her, but she spent many weekends and evenings, and long work hours communicating with the campus, Higher One officials, and the state IT Department to make sure all the I's were dotted and all the T's were crossed. As a result, we had a flawless implementation. We were told to expect the first quarter to be difficult with many student complaints. However this was not our experience. Of course there were a few student problems, but they were minor compared to what we were expecting. She did a great job, and gave 110% of herself to make sure it went well. Her efforts paid off, and our students benefit from having a better, more efficient way to receive their financial aid funds.

Nominator: Spencer Stark and Jorge de la Torre, Athletics
Kimberly Johansen, Athletics

As new employees at EdCC, Jorge de la Torre and I came in after the fall sports season had already started. Kim patiently guided us through the first few months, setting up meetings with different departments on campus and showing us the ropes. In addition to both of us being new, five of our seven head coaches are either brand new or entering their first season with their own recruits. She works well with all PE faculty and athletic coaches and helps dozens of students on a daily basis with a range of questions and issues.

Kim is definitely the glue that holds Seaview together. She is constantly interrupted by students, coaches, and staff and always puts others first with a fun, can-do, willingness to help and solve problems. Kim goes above and beyond in her service to the EdCC community. Thank you Kim Johansen, and BRAVO!

Nominator: Alison Pugh, Energy Management Director
Maizy Brown, Energy Management Program Assistant

Maizy is the Program Assistant for Energy Management. She's been working for the department for about a year, but worked on campus for several years before that in various departments/positions. She attended EdCC and received her GED, then AA from EdCC – then she transferred to UW Bothell and earned a BA in Environmental Studies. After getting her 4-year degree, she returned to EdCC to work; she loves it here and has met many folks across many departments over the years.

Recently, there was a large food drive on campus for community organizations. At this time, some employees spoke to Maizy about how *they* were in need of help with food and groceries and wondered how to get help. (Maizy is quite knowledgeable about community resources and falls into this role naturally). Maizy began doing some investigation and discovered that there is a group of employees on campus who find it hard to make ends meet for a variety of reasons whether it be underemployment, low pay, and/or unexpected financial circumstances. She began to work with allies on campus, including ODET (Organizational Development and Employee Training) to gather data and report on the situation. Because of her hard work and dedication (along with help from her allies), we now have an Employees in Need Fund at the college. Folks can easily donate to the fund, and folks can access funds for basic necessities when in need. This work is so important to creating an inclusive organization that supports *all* employees. Bravo to Maizy!

Nominator: Peg Basson, Credentials/Evaluations

Leon Golden-Novak

Over the years, Leon has been my rescuer in a variety of situations. Leon knows a lot about computers. I bet there has been at least, at least, a dozen times that I would not be able to carry on without his help & knowledge. I'm not talking about the normal daily situations.

I'm talking about trying to frantically beat a deadline. Leon may not remember, but I do. Each quarter, I do the Satisfactory Academic Progress letters for the general college population. Usually, it goes fairly smooth. But one quarter, I couldn't get the list to download to Excel. I didn't know why in the world it wouldn't work. After trying several times, I went to Leon & he played Mr. Fixit.

You all remember the Sync Outlook to Google transition. That was a fiasco for me, a panic situation. But Leon easily got me through that one. He worked his magic, as if he were David Copperfield.

Leon also holds the masters for our graduation dept. forms. He has offered great suggestions for improvements as to their look & keeps us steadily supplied with the forms.

Then there is the personal help that Leon has given me. I can barely remember "spring ahead, fall behind", let alone be capable of changing the time on my digital watch. Leon has never seen the directions for changing the time on my watch, yet he can accomplish this for me in a matter of moments.

Also, one cannot forget the gentlemanly nod as he passes me. Leon is a great asset to Edmonds Community College & a great asset to me. Thank you, Leon!!