Outstanding Student Recognition Award

Our Quality Shows...

December 2, 2013
Fall 2013
Academic Senate
Outstanding Students

Criteria:

1. Academic, technical, or artistic performance.
2. Special talents in subjects in the division.
3. Unusual accomplishments in subjects or sports in the division.
4. Leadership among peers in the division.
5. Any other characteristics that the instructors in the division feel worthy of recognition.

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MOHAMMADALI ASADIRAD

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Amir Assadi-Rad
Agriculture, Science & Mathematics

Ali worked very hard and he was very quiet during lab. He has a clear mind as far as what he wants. Since he has been in this country, he accomplished so much that I am sure he has a bright future. When we talked about his career he knew of different options before him and he was willing to listen, and I hope he follows those suggestions.

What you might find unusual about Ali is that he is quiet and he has a wealth of knowledge about science. I am proud to nominate him because he deserves it.

TRAN CHAU

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Amir Assadi-Rad
Agriculture, Science & Mathematics

Tran is an exceptional student. Tran worked very hard to achieve the high goals. Tran is a successful student and will do fine in any major that she chooses.
Connor Shelton

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Amir Assadi-Rad

Agriculture, Science & Mathematics

Connor Shelton is an attorney. He has a very interesting life story. He is the youngest attorney that passed the bar. He came back to Delta to take a few courses to get specialized in a particular area of law. He has been a great student. I had him as a teenager when he took human biology and he did very well. After being an attorney, he took zoology and he still was on top of it and did exceptionally well. I am honored to nominate him and I hope his family enjoys this nomination.

Falade Olutosin

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Amir Assadi-Rad

Agriculture, Science & Mathematics

Falade Olutosin has a family and goes to school. I admire her. She worked very hard during zoology. She will accomplish all her academic goals as long as she works like she did in zoology. She came from Europe and is still trying to adjust to the U.S. Having a family, being new to the country and doing well in school are very hard tasks. I wish her well in whatever plans she has. I know she will do well in life.
Shahid Khan

Nominating Faculty - Dr. Robert L. Knudsen

Agriculture, Science & Mathematics

Shahid is a model student. He took BIO 31 and was one of the highest achievers in the six sections (180 students). He then took BIO 33 (A&P) and was the highest achiever. However, his distinction is not just with academic accomplishments. He was “always” first to help other students; his honesty and integrity was beyond reproach. He became active in the tutoring center helping numerous struggling students. One of the best students I have had in my 24 years at the college. He is now successfully completing the RAD program.

Jeremy Scott

Nominating Faculty - Professor Alex Taddei

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Jeremy has been a leader among his peers. While he has completed the requirements for the welding certificate, he continues to take additional courses to further increase his skills. His skill level is definitely above average as he is the gold medalist in the G.M.A.W. process for SkillsUSA California this year. He shares his knowledge freely with his fellow students and can be relied upon to take on any task or project that arrives in the shop. His hard work and perseverance have definitely paid off. He is without a doubt an outstanding student.
Anthony Bowe has been dedicated to his engineering studies here at Delta College, as seen by his 3.60 GPA. He plans to continue that dedication when he transfers to Cal Poly SLO where he intends to earn a MS degree in Mechanical Engineering or BioEngineering. He will use that knowledge to work with nanotechnology and robotic prosthetics. He is also active in SHPE.

Gerardo Chavez is a dynamic and entrepreneurial young man who plans to earn a BS in Mechanical Engineering at UC Berkeley before starting his own company to market his innovative ideas. He has maintained a 3.74 GPA while also serving as co-president of SHPE, being a tutor in chemistry and physics, and participating in the UC Santa Barbara Mechanical Engineering Internship Program in MEMS (Microelectromechanical systems). As a first-generation college student with a passion for science and engineering, Gerardo enjoys showing that he can overcome any obstacle thrown at him on his road to success.
CORY ETTER
Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Cory Etter earned a certificate in Electrical Technology in 2009 and has returned to Delta to complete an AS in Engineering Technology. He has maintained an amazing 3.96 GPA during both stints at Delta. After graduating, this multi-talented young man hopes to get a position as a mechanical and/or electrical engineering technician. Just recently married, he is motivated to make a better life for himself and his family. He enjoys camping and fishing in his spare time.

JOSEPH FALCAO
Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Joseph Falcao is a highly-focused young man who intends to earn BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly SLO and then work in the automotive or aeronautical industry. He has maintained a near-perfect 3.95 GPA while being an active member of MESA and serving as SHPE co-president. Last summer, he participated in a prestigious UC Berkeley research internship program in nanotechnology and is now a published author of a scientific paper. But deep down, Joe is really a hands-on kind of guy who enjoys building and fixing things, so this semester he is even learning how to weld here at Delta!
TIMOTHY FULLER

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Timothy Fuller is a multi-talented and well-rounded young man who plans to take his stellar 3.98 GPA to Cal Poly to earn a BS and then MS in Aeronautical Engineering. He then plans to work as an aeronautical engineer for a scientific organization such as NASA, Boeing or JPL. Tim enjoys testing his limits, and has competed for Delta College in track and field. He also enjoys playing guitar on the worship team at Stockton Bible Chapel. Tim enjoys increasing his knowledge and improving his thinking skills in numerous fields. His Delta transcript includes classes in linguistics, history, philosophy, geography, political science, psychology, music, business and even plant science!

EDGAR REY LIBAO

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Edgar Libao is a very serious student who has been able to maintain a 3.71 GPA. He is also very active in SHPE and MESA. He intends to transfer to Cal Poly SLO or SJSU to earn a BS in Mechanical and Materials Engineering and eventually earn a MS degree. He would like to work in the automotive industry. His goal has been to live up to the potential that others see in him, and he is certainly meeting and exceeding that goal!
JOCELYN LINHTHASACK

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Jocelyn Linhthasack is a quiet student, but don't let that fool you. She is highly motivated and dedicated to her studies, maintaining a 3.82 GPA. She plans to earn an AS in Engineering Technology so she can work as a technician and save money so she can eventually attend a four-year university to major in engineering. She attributes her motivation to succeed to her grandparents. In her spare time, she likes to knit and go fishing.

STEPHEN McBURNETT JR.

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Stephen McBurnett, Jr., returns to school at Delta College after serving several years in the Army. That time away from school hasn’t hindered him any, as he has been able to maintain a 3.86 GPA. He plans to obtain his AS in Engineering Technology so he can work in the engineering field. In his spare time, he plays softball and rides motorcycles.
Cesar Pena
Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Cesar Pena started at Delta College studying in the Engineering Technology program and has decided to switch to Engineering. He wants to transfer to CSU Sacramento, CSU Northridge or San Diego State University to study Mechanical Engineering. Cesar is very conscientious about his studies as seen by his 3.82 GPA. In addition, he always stands out as a leader among his classmates. He intends to finish his schooling so he can provide a better life for his wife and children.

Phuong Nguyen
Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Phuong Nguyen is a highly motivated and intelligent young woman whose educational goals include an MS degree in Chemical Engineering from either Berkeley or San Jose State. She would then like to work as a chemist at a petroleum, food processing or pharmaceutical lab, or possibly at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. Phuong is an excellent mathematician who has won several Delta College Math competitions. Last year she took first place at the regional MESA Math Challenge. She has been an active member of MESA and SHPE while maintaining at 3.78 GPA. Phuong is motivated by the many sacrifices that her family in Vietnam has made to allow her to come to the U.S. and study.
RYAN ROW

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Bennett Howser & Professor Danell Hepworth

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Ryan Row has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA while pursuing the challenging Engineering Transfer program. Somehow he has also found time to be an active member of SHPE, ACS and the AGS honor society, as well as work as a tutor in both math and chemistry. He plans to earn a computer engineering degree from Berkeley or UCLA and then go to graduate school in mathematics. As a first-generation college student, he wants to create a better future for himself and his (future) children, while pursuing a challenging career that will make a difference in the world.

JEFF CASPERSON

Nominating Faculty – Professor David N. Thomas

Applied Science, Business & Technology

I have had the privilege of having Mr. Casperson in several of my classes for the past couple of semesters. He is an outstanding student. He is able to work independently and willing to participate in class projects. He always has his assigned homework and laboratory exercises done safely, organized and on time. Jeff always arrives to class early, sometimes an hour before class starts. He is very well liked by the other students. He is a very motivated student. Jeff plans to pursue a career as an electrician and enter the IBEW Electrical Apprenticeship program in Stockton.
I have had the privilege of having Mr. Mayfield in several electrical classes for the past semesters. He is an outstanding student that shows leadership, dedication, and works hard to achieve his goals. Michael has impressed me from the beginning that I met him. He works the night shift with a local employer and goes to school all day during the week. He is very dedicated to school, work and his family. He plans to have a career as an electrician.

I have had the privilege of having Mr. Vaughn in several of my classes. He is an outstanding student that shows dedication, commitment, and a positive attitude. He is well liked by his classmates. He is very professional in classes and sits in the front ready to learn. Steven has been a pleasure to have in my classes. He is a very motivated student. Steven plans to pursue a career as an electrician and enter a state-approved electrical apprenticeship program.
JESUS VEGA, JR.

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Martha Villarreal

Applied Science, Business & Technology

I am honored to nominate Jesus Vega, Jr., for this award. He is an outstanding student and role model for the community. He maintains a 3.90 GPA and volunteers in the community. I know Jesus well. He has taken five of my business courses. He is an excellent, hardworking, motivated student. He is goal-oriented and focused on his schoolwork. Jesus is articulate and handles class debates and discussions well.

He is a member of the San Joaquin Delta College Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. He is majoring in Business with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. He has already been accepted to the University of Pacific and will be transferring next fall. Jesus attended Stockton schools and he is a first-generation college student. In addition to his studies, he has volunteered at the Head Start Program, San Joaquin Elementary School and the Council for the Spanish Speaking (El Concilio). He is passionate about helping people and intends to work with non-profit organizations when he graduates. Jesus is truly a great student and a wonderful young man who already gives back to his community.

ETHAN GIBSON

Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Ethan is a quick learner that channels his academic abilities and strong leadership skills to build confident work teams in the classroom. He quickly identifies those that struggle and breaks down difficult concepts so they are easy to understand amongst his peers.

San Joaquin Delta College Outstanding Student Recognition Award Ceremony – Fall 2013
SEILA KONG
Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Seila has turned stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Coming to Delta College after being adversely affected by a suffering economy, Seila refocused all of his energy into becoming an electrician. His new career goal came after working in a field that was not a good fit and could not survive the economic downturn. His great attitude and determination will carry him far in his newly chosen field. He is a strong role model for all those that have gone through tough times demonstrating that hard work and perseverance are key to success.

ROBERT LANCASTER
Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Robert is an academically high achiever that shares his knowledge and makes sure his classmates also achieve. He explains difficult material and supporting those that struggle with challenging concepts. His mentoring and leadership style in the classroom has set a tone for unity and team building.
SAMNANG LY
Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Sam is a student that works hard to grasp difficult concepts. While others publicly and without hesitation toil and struggle in frustration, Sam turns that same energy into a highly spirited and earnest desire to learn, looking for support and help from his peers and his professor. He is always enthusiastic and positive in the learning environment. He will achieve great success due to his positive outlook and easygoing temperament.

ALFREDO MEDRANO
Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman
Applied Science, Business & Technology

Alfredo is a high achiever that never stops thinking, solving problems or creating. He consistently reads ahead and pushes the conversation forward during lecture. His natural curiosity about how electricity works is never-ending. He wants to learn everything NOW, and his questions and comments about real-life applications challenge others to broaden their thinking.
JESSIE MORANTE

Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Jessie is an enthusiastic learner that looks forward to working in the field. His approach to learning and everyday life has a positive spin that makes every class fun and reminds me as an instructor how enjoyable teaching and learning can be. He takes time with his fellow classmates to ensure everybody is on the same page. Jessie is an easygoing but conscientious leader that always watches out for his classmates.

JEFFORY MORSE

Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Jeffory is an active learner who has set the example for others through complete engagement in class discussion. He has a persistent drive to understand concepts and uses every resource available to master the course material. His thirst for knowledge and his goals to apply that knowledge is infectious.
ALEJANDRO NUNEZ

Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Alejandro is a conscientious learner, worker and classmate. He has developed healthy partnerships in class that augment his learning and raise the bar for those around him. He faces all challenges head on without hesitation and help others succeed, building their confidence and a can-do attitude. Alejandro is a natural leader.

VINCENT ZIZZO

Nominating Faculty – Professor Mary Jo Zimmerman

Applied Science, Business & Technology

Vincent is a patient learner that works at an even pace showing focus and determination until he understands a concept or can solve a problem. He can work independently, but always shares his knowledge with others so they too can grasp difficult concepts and helps the class move forward as a group.
Ana Acevedo

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Stacey Robles Bagnasco

Counseling & Special Services

Ana is an outstanding student because she aced my guidance courses and maintains a 3.40 GPA. She has many gifts that will make her an excellent high school or community college counselor. She has an amazing ability to learn and listen, be patient and compassionate towards others. She loves helping people and making them feel better. At such a young age, she has been able to juggle so many responsibilities and overcome several personal obstacles with her family and herself.

Ana is a one-of-a-kind student because she is mature for her age, hardworking and has overcome many obstacles to get to where she is today. From the beginning of her college career, she knew that she wanted to help people. Ana loves kids and has a sweet, nurturing and caring spirit. Ana plans to transfer next fall to UC Davis as a psychology major then obtain a Master’s degree in counseling.

Alfredo Almazan

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Stacey Robles Bagnasco

Counseling & Special Services

Alfredo “Freddy” is an exceptional student because of his determination to succeed and strong academic skills. I admire him because he believes in himself and has overcome many physical, emotional and mental obstacles to achieve a 3.50 GPA. Freddy is a first-generation college student who speaks Spanish. His parents do not speak good English and struggle to take care of their family. This has inspired Freddy to go to college and complete his education so that he can become a social worker.

Freddy plans to transfer to UC Davis and major in sociology then obtain a Master’s degree in Social Work. He had been interning at the Salvation Army to get experience and learn new skills by working with recovering addicts.

Freddy is an outstanding student because he aced my guidance course and continues to maintain a stellar academic record. He is an awesome student who is independent, self-sufficient and knows how to use resources. If he doesn’t know the answer to a question, he will seek out the information and get help.
MARIO DE JESUS MUNOZ

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Stacey Robles Bagnasco

Counseling & Special Services

Mario is an outstanding student because he has maintained a 3.70 GPA and overcome many obstacles while taking a full load of pre-business classes every semester. Mario completed Guide 30, 31 and 33 to confirm that he wants to be a business major.

Mario plans to transfer to UCSB as a business major in fall 2014. I have no doubt that he will continue to be an exceptional student at the university. It has been a pleasure working with him over the past year and helping him choose the right classes so that he can transfer and make his dream of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree come true. He plans to do a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) to ensure that he has a spot at UCSB next fall.

HECTOR Z. APONTE

Nominating Faculty – Professor Rocky LaJeunesse

Counseling & Special Services

I met Hector in spring 2009 when he came to me for counseling. Hector’s inspirational story is one of stellar achievement in the face of great diversity.

Born in Mexico, Hector was brought to the U.S. at a young age by his parents. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Delta College. As an undocumented student he was not eligible for any financial aid but was able to attend as an “AB 540 student” (which enabled him to pay resident tuition rates).

Being undocumented, Hector was only able to work as an agricultural laborer, which was essential, as he needed to help support his family. He often labored 12-hour days, contending with 105 degree heat and pesticides.

Hector achieved a 3.78 GPA and was admitted to both UC Berkeley and UCLA in fall 2010. However, being ineligible for financial assistance, Hector could not shoulder the entire cost of his university education given his limited means. Instead, Hector went to work with the hope of eventually fulfilling his dream of attending university. This opportunity came with the California Dream Act of 2011, which allows undocumented students to receive certain state and institutional financial assistance. Hector has now returned to Delta and is on to transfer to CSU Sacramento as a Business major; a goal that he feels is more logistically and financially feasible.
Blake Alexander serves as co-president of Club FEED, a student group created in 2011 with the purpose of combatting hunger. Some of the core activities include volunteering at local soup kitchens, prepping care packages for the homeless, helping to maintain a community garden, and promoting healthy lifestyles by raising awareness about nutrition. Blake has been active in Club FEED since its inception. He will be graduating both from Delta College and Middle College High School in May 2014 and plans to major in chemistry.

Ali Manrique serves as co-president of Club FEED, a student group created in 2011 with the purpose of combatting hunger. Some of the core activities include volunteering at local soup kitchens, prepping care packages for the homeless, helping to maintain a community garden, and promoting healthy lifestyles by raising awareness about nutrition. Ali has been instrumental in Club FEED’s continued success. She maintains a 3.90 GPA and will be graduating from both Delta College and Middle College High School in May 2014. She plans to major in psychology.
KATELYN SEVILLA

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Karen Millsop

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Katelyn Sevilla serves as treasurer for Club FEED, a student group created in 2011 with the purpose of combatting hunger. Some of the core activities include volunteering at local soup kitchens, prepping care packages for the homeless, helping to maintain a community garden, and promoting healthy lifestyles by raising awareness about nutrition. Katelyn has been actively involved with Club FEED for the past two years. She attends both Middle College High School and Delta College where she maintains a 4.0 GPA.

KOURTNEY STUTHARD

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Karen Millsop

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Kourtney Stuthard serves as ICC representative for Club FEED, a student group created in 2011 with the purpose of combatting hunger. Some of the core activities include volunteering at local soup kitchens, prepping care packages for the homeless, helping to maintain a community garden, and promoting healthy lifestyles by raising awareness about nutrition. Kourtney has been instrumental in Club FEED’s continued success. She maintains a 3.74 GPA and will be graduating from Delta College in May 2014.
ZACHARY BENJAMIN

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Vivian Harper

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Zachary Benjamin began his studies at Delta College when he was a freshman in high school. For the past two years, he has maintained a full-time college load in addition to his full load of high school classes. He has a 4.0 GPA at both the college and his high school and will be receiving his Associate of Arts degree in May 2014. Yes, he will receive a college degree a year before receiving his high school diploma! In addition to his own schoolwork, Zachary works as a teaching assistant, competes in Acadec, serves as class representative in the student government of his high school, and serves as vice president of Club FEED. This is a student group that volunteers on weekends and holidays at Stockton’s homeless shelter, St. Mary’s Interfaith Dining Room, to cook and serve food to the needy.

NANCY DE LA CRUZ

Nominating Faculty – Dr. Vivian Harper

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Nancy is being honored for her special talent as an outstanding student teacher in Delta’s Early Childhood Education Practicum classes. Nancy quickly builds positive rapport with children, supports their learning by designing and implementing exciting, creative and developmentally appropriate curriculum, and is able to connect with even the most challenging children in the classroom. Her calm and kind manner, her show of concern and compassion toward them, and her joy in being in the company of children draws them to her. Fortunate are the children who cross Nancy’s path. Her influence of who they are as learners and valued individuals will be with them always.
LORENA DE LOS ANGELES
Nominating Faculty – Associate Professor Suzanne Coleman

*Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics*

If gives me great pleasure to nominate Lorena as an outstanding student. Lorena has demonstrated her aptitude for understanding young children and her passion to work with them and their families. She approaches her coursework with such dedication and her work sets her apart from other students. Although she is quite quiet in the classroom, she can be counted on to think deeply about the subject matter and to encourage other students who might be struggling. Lorena has a great personality and she is nurturing, kind and compassionate with children. She has been an asset as a student teacher in the Child Development Center. I believe her career choice to work with children and families will be quite successful due to her enthusiasm, care and aptitude for her chosen field.

MARCUS BROWN
Nominating Faculty – Professor Gary Barlow

*Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics*

Marcus Brown is a true student-athlete. He excels on the football field where he is constantly harassing opposing quarterbacks as well as in the classroom where he is earning at 3.25 GPA. Marcus came to us from St. Mary’s High School.
JAMES CHRISTOPHERSON

Nominating Faculty – Professor Gary Barlow

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Jamie Christopherson is a starting linebacker and one of the state's leading tacklers. Jamie plays with high effort and also contributes on special teams. Jamie came to us from St. Mary’s High School and is currently earning a 3.34 GPA.

ANDREW TRUAX

Nominating Faculty – Professor Gary Barlow

Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics

Andrew Truax is a starting safety for the Delta College Mustang Football team. Andrew is a major contributor and a team leader. He plays with great effort and that effort carries over into his studies where he is earning a 3.67 GPA.
JULIAN VALDEZ III

Nominating Faculty – Professor Gary Barlow

*Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics*

Julian Valdez is a valuable member of the Delta College Mustang Football team. He is a hard worker and leads by example. After starting the 2012 season, Julian suffered a season-ending injury in 2013, yet still manages to keep a positive outlook while earning a 3.05 GPA. Julian comes to us from St. Mary’s High School.

CODY WEINZHEIMER

Nominating Faculty – Professor Gary Barlow

*Humanities, Social Science, Education, Kinesiology & Athletics*

Cody Weinzheimer is an outstanding quarterback and student. Cody has a strong work ethic and brings out the best in his team. Cody came to us from Patterson High School where he was a multiple sport standout student-athlete. Cody is currently earning a 3.31 GPA.