

For Immediate Release

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International Programs Announces the 2009 Staff Star Award Winner

The International Programs Office (IPO) awarded the 2009 Staff Star Award on January 28 during the Annual IPO retreat to Renae Vargo, Office Associate for both the Office of International Outreach (OIO) and the European Union Center (EUC).

Vice President for Global Initiatives, Ambassador Eric Bost said Vargo is a deserving recipient because of her outstanding contribution to IPO. Bost said he is pleased to know that IPO created the Staff Star Award in 1993 to acknowledge the good work of its employees.

"I understand this employee has been a diligent worker behind the scenes," Bost said. "Renae Vargo has been with International Programs for nearly seven years. Her nominators say she has quietly worked to keep both the Office of International Outreach and the European Union Center on target with all the programs they offer."

Her colleagues say she possesses excellent customer service skills and a team mentality that cannot be taught. Linda Edwards, director of OIO, said this kind of skill comes from the heart.

"Renae is an integral part of our team," Edwards said. "She is the only member of IPO who serves two units simultaneously and she is resourceful, creative and makes sure the details get the attention they need."

The Staff Star award was established in 1994 to show appreciation, motivate employee improvement and create a positive working environment within International Programs. The award is intended to highlight significant contributions towards the internationalization of the university and the functioning of the units within International Programs.

Previous recipients were: Nita Dixon, International Programs, spring 1994; Jan Kracht, International Coordination, fall 1994; Myra Winters, International Student Services, spring 1995; Jill Houston, International Programs Office, fall 1995; Ann Frerich, International Programs Office, 1996; Cathy Schutt, Study Abroad Programs, 1998; Jenni Norris, International Student Services, 1999; Lucero Carranza, International Center, 2000; Angela Hoskin, International Student Services, 2001; Karen Skubal,

International Programs Office, 2002, Kim Fox, International Center, 2003; Amy Winn of International Student Services, 2004; Rochelle McCall of the Qatar Support Office, 2005; Nancy Barnes, Sponsored Student Programs, 2006; Debbie Lindke, Study Abroad Programs Office, 2007; and Carmen Suen, Institute for Pacific Asia in 2008.