

May 2021 Staff Appreciation Nominations

Hospitality

One of Bellarmine's symbols is the Pineapple which represents hospitality and cura personalis - concern for each person. Please select a staff member that characterizes learning and life at Bellarmine, as well as truly valuing the faculty, staff and students in our community.

- **Anne Bucalos:** Anne takes a sincere interest in each and every person she meets and works with at Bellarmine. She always makes one feel welcome and is open to any and all suggestions (within reason of course) that employees in her department make. She keeps in contact with former students as well and provides encouragement. In times of crisis or need, she meets the need by doing whatever she can to support that person. When my mother died I had been here just over a year, and Anne brought food and did many things to support me. She has done this for others outside our department as well. She is one of the most caring people I have ever met.

Solidarity

The Ursula Laurel Tree represents the merger between Ursuline College and Bellarmine University in 1968. Please select a staff member that is truly collaborative with others, one who seeks to compromise and improve the environment in the best interest of Bellarmine, and one who demonstrates teamwork and empathy.

- **Calene Baldwin:** Calene Baldwin is the perfect example of solidarity, especially in the age of COVID. Starting last year, she helped navigate the tough decision to postpone commencement celebrations and tirelessly continued to consider, plan and weigh the risks of a multitude of possible ways, means and dates to offer the Class of 2020 an opportunity to walk for graduation. When it became clear this was not going to happen, she then directed her efforts toward May of 2021. Under the directive from Dr. Donovan and cabinet, she led the team in planning and executing 5 unique commencement celebrations that would allow the graduates from 2020 and 2021 to be recognized -all in a time when restrictions and participation were constantly in flux. Even without the challenges specific to the pandemic, Calene is charged with making all major constituents of the university happy: Students, Faculty, Administration and Family members. Each of these groups plays an important role and places great significance on the commencement experience. Calene's attention to detail and determined perseverance to meet the needs of each group and have their input factored into final decisions went above and beyond expectations. In this environment, there is no way to make every single person happy, but I believe we all went into commencement weekend knowing Bellarmine would be presented to all as a university that values the individual and celebrates each and every one's achievement. Few other events require the coordinated efforts of so many groups on campus. And few other events are as well photographed, videoed, 'snapped, 'grammed and shared across social media platforms. Commencement is a time the university shows it's solidarity and celebrates together why we do what we do. And we could not do it near as well, if Calene wasn't leading the charge.

I know she doesn't do it alone, but I think the commencement team would agree that without Calene they would be adrift.

Intrinsic Values

- **Ronda Purdy:** Ronda works very hard to make sure students with specific learning needs are heard and their needs are met. I have worked at multiple institutions and hands down Ronda is the best I have worked with when it comes to advocating for the student's needs.

Light of Truth

- **Jackie McNatt:** Jackie is a compassionate, problem-solver that has demonstrated adaptability with grace and love since we transitioned to remote work over a year ago. Jackie has personally called hundreds of students to check in and ensure they are thriving and able to receive the career support needed to reach their goals. She has provided virtual career advising to over 700 students in the past year and adapted programming and presentations to meet students in the virtual classroom. The largest adaptation has been Jackie's leadership in the Student-Alumni Mentor Program. In summer 2020, she helped launch the first virtual alumni mentoring program supporting 70 recent grads to network and receive alumni support in their career transitions. She also worked collaboratively with the Alumni Office to plan a very successful spring 2021 alumni mentor program connecting 200 students with alumni across diverse professions and affinity groups. Jackie is constantly looking for opportunities to provide students with individual support through her personal advising as well as connecting them with alumni mentors. She has helped so many students gain confidence in their career purpose and reach for their career goals.