

# December 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.*

- **Dominique Clayton:** Dr. Clayton should be recognized for her hospitality as she has made it a point to develop personal relationships with the students working under her in the tutoring and writing centers. These students know that Dr. Clayton truly cares for their well being and ensures that the students are taken care of should they need any assistance. Keeping these students taken care of allows for them to take care of other students in their respective roles, which means Dr. Clayton's efforts reach a larger population of students than anyone can truly know. As the organization of the Student Success Center has come under construction, Dr. Clayton has made sure her students are informed and involved as much as possible, making the transition as seamless as possible. I cannot think of another staff member who deserves recognition for their hospitality this semester as much as Dr. Dominique Clayton.

### 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.*

- **Elaine Surdyke:** Working in Student Activities, you become the sort of "catch-all" department that works closely with nearly every other area on campus. Elaine spends every day trying to connect with everyone she comes into contact with to create opportunities for collaboration, conversation, and change. She and her work are student-focused, and she keeps students' well-being at the forefront of all that she does. Elaine is a perfect example of someone who listens to understand, who seeks out opportunities for others to grow personally and professionally, and sets the stage for the best possible outcome of any and every situation. She is the ideal teammate and would be a perfect recipient of the this recognition.

### Intrinsic Values

- **Kim Kerns:** I truly appreciate the effort Kim puts into helping students and fellow staff learn and grow. No matter who Kim is working with, she finds ways to lift them up and empower them to accomplish their goals. She is patient, understanding and passionate about ensuring everyone is heard and feels valued. I am always impressed when I witness her helping students navigate difficult situations, she does so with a natural ease, creates a comfortable environment and helps

the students find the right path and take the first step. As a teammate, Kim is invaluable. She excels at helping the team find the right direction, never hesitates to ask the difficult questions but is also always there to help us navigate whatever comes out of those difficult questions. She makes a positive impact on our work environment every day and helps us to develop and improve ourselves and our work.

## Light of Truth

- **Alexa Walczak:** Alexa really holds the SSC together in a lot of ways, and she constantly has things added to her plate. While she does not work with students directly, she often is the glue holding us together with various operations in place. She allows us to do our job more seamlessly, and is always an opportunist to make our presence known. I cannot count how many times she has some new campaign initiative to promote us, or create processes for us or our students. She always has a pleasant attitude, and she goes above and beyond in staff meetings to incorporate morale-boosting whenever she can. With the Student Success Center barely getting a moment of reprieve, she is the engine that keeps us going, and does so with the most class, caring, and impact that I have seen in her position.