Professor Martha Escobar, Professor Cedric Hackett, Ms. Maria Valiton, and Ms. Claire Davis Named Recipients of 2018 CSUN Mentoring Awards

Four outstanding CSUN leaders are recipients of the 2018 Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Awards. The award recipients are Professor Martha Escobar of Chicana/o Studies; Professor Cedric Hackett of Africana Studies; and Ms. Maria Valiton, Director of Student Resource Center/EOP, Mike Curb College of Arts, Media and Communication. In addition, a special excellence in mentoring award will be presented Ms. Claire Davis, Associate Director of Student Housing and Conference Services for her many years of support for EOP and EOP students.

Professor Martha Escobar of Chicana/o Studies earned a B.A. from UC Riverside and her M.A. and Ph.D. from UC San Diego. Her nominator, graduate student Georgia Acosta, described her as “a talented, loving and caring individual and professor.” Professor Escobar serves as faculty advisor for Revolutionary Scholars Project, comprised of formerly incarcerated students and students impacted by mass incarceration.

Professor Cedric Hackett of Africana Studies serves as director of the DuBois Hamer Institute for Academic Achievement. He holds a B.A. and M.S. from CSUN and an Ed.D. from Cal Lutheran University. His nominator, Robert D. Park, Academic Advisor in the Student Services Center/EOP of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, described him as a “mentor extraordinaire” who has changed the lives of “those who have the blessing of getting to know him during key moments in their lives.”
Ms. Maria Valiton serves as the Director of the Student Resource Center/EOP in the Mike Curb College of Art, Media and Communication and has been a leader on this campus for more than three decades. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from CSUN. She was nominated for the award by Professors Ah-Jeong Kim and Doug Kaback of Theatre, student Gretchen Ratcliff Sawyer, and alumnus Amarilis Rivas. According to Rivas, “Since the day I met her, she has not given up on me. Instead she has pushed me to strive for more, a quality any great mentor should have.”

Ms. Claire Davis, Associate Director of Student Housing and Conference Services, is the recipient of a special Dorsey excellence in mentoring award from the Educational Opportunity Programs. She is being honored for her many years of support for EOP and EOP students, according to EOP Director Shiva Parsa. Ms. Davis has served students on our campus since 2005.

The Dorsey mentoring awards were established in 1998 by the Faculty Mentor Program and the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP). The annual awards recognize faculty and staff who have made exceptional contributions to mentoring of past and present students, especially EOP students; who take a holistic approach to mentoring, including academic and personal support; and who demonstrate proactive involvement in the University’s commitment to the success of students of diverse backgrounds and communities, especially EOP students. The awards are named after Professor Don Dorsey of Educational Psychology and Counseling who helped develop CSUN’s first mentor training program and devoted himself as a mentor to innumerable students.

The Faculty Mentor Program (https://www.csun.edu/csun-eop/faculty-mentor-program) provides mentoring services, training, and resources for CSUN faculty, staff, and students.
For more information, contact Faculty Mentor Program Coordinator Glenn Omatsu at (818) 677-4151.