



2021

*Academic Achievement
Awards Ceremony*

Program

Sponsored by:

Office of the President
Keith E. Whitfield, President

&

Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost
Chris L. Heavey, Executive Vice President & Provost

We're proud to celebrate the academic achievements of our students and faculty. Their impactful research, scholarship and creative activity are advancing UNLV in its mission as a Top Tier institution. Their accomplishment is especially notable, given their tenacity to pursue their passions amid the complications of working during the ongoing pandemic.

We have more than 60 awards recognizing research, community service and dedication to excellence in the classroom. The awardees are contributing solutions, providing evidence-based best practices in their fields and forging a path through some of the most difficult challenges of the day. Congratulations to those winners and all the unit award winners that we also recognize in this program.

Thanks to their dedication to excellence, UNLV ranks among the top 3 percent of research institutions in the country.

These top students and faculty are shaping their future and that of our region. Their work has the power to drive economic activity and contributes to the sustainability and wellbeing of Southern Nevada.

It is our pleasure to recognize these incredibly accomplished individuals who represent the best of our UNLV spirit.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith E. Whitfield".

Keith E. Whitfield, Ph.D.
President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris L. Heavey".

Chris L. Heavey, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost

2021

Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony

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2021 Academic Achievement Awards

REGENT AWARDS

STUDENT AWARDS

*Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for
Student Scholarship (Undergraduate)*

Michael Schwob, Department of Mathematical Sciences

*Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for
Student Scholarship (Graduate)*

Cindy Kha, School of Life Sciences

FACULTY AWARDS

Regents' Rising Researcher Award

Javon Johnson, Department of Interdisciplinary,
Gender, and Ethnic Studies

Regents' Creative Activities Award

Joe Nathan Bynum, Department of Theatre

Regents' Academic Advisor Award (Graduate)

Kwang Kim, Department of Mechanical Engineering

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

RESEARCH AWARDS

Harry Reid Silver State Research Award

Jacimaria Batista, Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering and Construction

Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award

Shahram Latifi, Department of Electrical
and Computer Engineering

Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award

Jichun Li, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Barrick Scholar Award

Arya Udry, Department of Geoscience

Barrick Scholar Award

John Hay, Department of English

TEACHING AWARDS

*UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award
Full-time Tenured or Tenure-Track Faculty*

Laura Kruskall, Department of
Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences

*UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award
Full-time Non-Tenure Track Faculty*

Kathryn Rafferty, School of Life Sciences

Nathan Slife, Department of Educational
Psychology and Higher Education

Jenifer Utz, School of Life Sciences

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

*Alex G. and Faye Spanos
Distinguished Teaching Award*

Joanna Kepka, Honors College

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

Margarita Huerta, Department of Early Childhood,
Multilingual, and Special Education

Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Instructor Award

Claudia Chiang-Lopez, Department of Interdisciplinary,
Gender, and Ethnic Studies

Monica Hsu, Department of World Languages and Cultures

Carlos Mata-Alvarez, School of Music

Cynthia Mishlove, Department of English

Joanne Ullman, Department of Psychology

ACADEMIC FACULTY AWARDS

Distinguished Professor Award

Bradley Donohue, Department of Psychology

Outstanding Department Chair Award

Zhijian Wu, Department of Mathematical Sciences

James S. McPhee Librarian of the Year Award

Patrick Griffis, Business Librarian

CSUN Faculty Awards

Ivan Sandoval-Cervantes, College of Liberal Arts

Erica Marti, Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

Boo Shan Tseng, College of Sciences

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

CSUN Faculty Awards (continued)

Murray Mackenzie, William F. Harrah
College of Hospitality

Tina Vo, College of Education

Janelle Willis, School of Nursing

Kimberly Nehls, Lee Business School

Eric Strain, College of Fine Arts

Darwin Morgan, Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

Educational Outreach Faculty Excellence Award

Clay Buck, Division of Educational Outreach

TOP TIER AWARDS

Top Tier Award

Caitlin Saladino, Brookings Mountain West & The Lincy Institute

Tricia McCrory, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

Top Tier Award

COVID-19 Response Team

Adam Garcia, University Police Services

Michael Gardner, UNLV School of Medicine

Gregg Maye, University Police Services

Brian Labus, School of Public Health

Cindy Brown, Public Affairs

Julie Young, UNLV School of Medicine

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

UNLV Accreditation Award

Department of Computer Science

“Streamlining the Assessment Process for Top-Tier”

Lead: Wolfgang Bein

Mission Fulfillment Grant

School of Public Health

“Implementing, Assessing, and Evaluating
Competencies Using Canvas Rubrics”

Lead: Nicole Espinoza

Academic Success Center

“Pathways to Graduation: Engaging
Former Major Pathways Students”

Lead: Cheyenne Rogers

Department of English

“Assessing Student Retention and Success in the
Developmental Gateway English Composition Course”

Lead: Kaitlin Clinnin

ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARDS

Academic Advisor Award (Undergraduate)

Nicole Stella, Undergraduate Education

Academic Advisor Award (Graduate)

Kwang Kim, College of Sciences

Academic Advising Center Award (Student Choice)

College of Urban Affairs Advising Center

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AWARDS

Academic Assessment Award

Tiffany Barrett, Department of Physical Therapy

David Copeland, Department of Psychology

ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY AWARD

Administrative Faculty of the Year Award

Salvatore Biazzo, Student Health Center/FAST Center

GRADUATE COLLEGE AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Leadership Award

Peter Gray, College of Liberal Arts

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award

Jennifer Pharr, School of Public Health

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

1st Place: **Dustin Davis**

School of Integrated Health Sciences

2nd Place: **Chris Wakefield**

College of Liberal Arts

3rd Place: **Nina Paul**

College of Liberal Arts

Outstanding STEM Thesis Award

Lara Turello, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Outstanding Non-STEM Thesis Award

Christopher Forepaugh, Department of Criminal Justice

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

Outstanding S.T.E.M. Dissertation Award

Ali Saber Sichani, Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering and Construction

Outstanding Non-S.T.E.M. Dissertation Award

Shae Cox, Department of History

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

Service-Learning Faculty Award

Jennifer Nash, Department of Physical Therapy

Community-Based Research Faculty Award

Patrice Leverett, Department of Counseling Education,
School Psychology, and Human Services

Faculty/Staff Outreach Award

John Starkey, Lee Business School

Student Service Award

Ayla Gelsinger, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts
and Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

OUTGOING ADMINISTRATOR

Barbee Oakes, Chief Diversity Officer

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

COLLEGE, SCHOOL, AND UNIT AWARDS

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Outstanding New Advisor Award

Maria Aladjova, Academic Advisor
Integrated Health Sciences

Outstanding Advisor Award

Marlon Urquico, Wilson Advising Center

Outstanding Advising Administrator Award

Peter Clancy, Sciences Advising

Outstanding Advising Innovation Award

College of Engineering Advising Center

*Academic Advising Center with the Highest
Academic Success (Student Choice)*

Honors College Academic Advising Center

*Academic Advising Center Who is Most Timely
and Accurate (Student Choice)*

College of Sciences Academic Advising Center

*Academic Advising Center Who is the Most
Welcoming (Student Choice)*

Pre-Professional Advising Center

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Service Award

Joseph Ervin, Academic Success Center

Student-Centered Award

Hanna Andrews, Academic Success Center

Collaboration Award

Emily Shreve, Academic Success Center

Collegiality Award

Jacquee deJesus, Academic Success Center

Faculty Award

Kendall Hartley, College of Education

Campus Community Partner Award

Office of Student Conduct

LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL

Researcher of the Year Award

Erin Hamilton, Department of Accounting

Teaching Faculty of the Year Award

Ankur Pareek, Department of Finance

Distinguished Service Award

John (Jack) Schibrowsky, Department of
Marketing & International Business

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Early Career Award

Tina Vo, Department of Teaching and Learning

Distinguished Teaching Award

Wendy Hoskins, Department of Counselor Education,
School Psychology and Human Services

Distinguished Research Award

Jeff Shih, Department of Teaching and Learning

Distinguished Service Award

Jared Lau, Department of Counselor Education,
School Psychology and Human Services

Collaborative Group Award

“Diggin’ Deep and Branching Out: Using Oral History and Collaborative Inquiry to Explore Candidate Resilience and Craft Equitable Experiences for ARL Teachers of Color”

Doris Watson, Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education, UNLV College of Education

Iesha Jackson, Department of Teaching and Learning,
UNLV College of Education

Marcie Gallo, Department of History

Claytee White, UNLV Oral History Research Center

Laurents Banuelos-Benitez, CCSD Teacher, Mojave High School

Kenneth Brown, Jr., CCSD Teacher, Sierra Vista High School

Honey Rodriguez, CCSD Teacher, Nevada Virtual Academy

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

HOWARD R. HUGHES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Distinguished Teacher Award

Melissa Morris, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Distinguished Researcher Award

Jacimaria Batista, Department of Civil &
Environmental Engineering & Construction

Distinguished Faculty Service Award

Sajjad Ahmad, Department of Civil &
Environmental Engineering & Construction

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts

Michael Jarett, Department of Dance

Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Alfonse Anderson, School of Music

Outstanding Part-Time Teacher of the Year Award

Carlos Mata-Alvarez, School of Music

HONORS COLLEGE

Department in Honors Teaching Award

Sheila Bock, Department of Interdisciplinary,
Gender, and Ethnic Studies

The Len Lane Excellence in Honors Teaching Award

Jaclyn Costello, Honors College

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

WILLIAM F. HARRAH COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY

Boyd Award for Teaching

Christine Bergman, Department of Food &
Beverage and Event Management

Boyd Award for Service

Toni Repetti, Department of Resort,
Gaming & Golf Management

Boyd Award for Research

Jungsun (Sunny) Kim, Department of
Resort, Gaming & Golf Management

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED HEALTH SCIENCES

Distinguished Scholarship Award

Francis Cucinotta, Department of Health
Physics and Diagnostic Sciences

Distinguished Teaching Award

Van Whaley, Department of Kinesiology
and Nutrition Sciences

Distinguished Service Award

Keoni Kins, Department of Physical Therapy

Distinguished Career Service Award

Chad Hensley, Department of Health
Physics and Diagnostic Sciences

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Diversity Award

A.B. Wilkinson, Department of History

Faculty-in-Residence/Lecturer Award for Excellence in Teaching

Emi Fujiyama, Department of World Languages and Cultures

Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year Award

Amy Reed-Sandoval, Department of Philosophy

William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship (Humanities)

A.B. Wilkinson, Department of History

William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship (Social Sciences)

Barbara Brents, Department of Sociology

William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching (Humanities)

Amy Reed-Sandoval, Department of Philosophy

William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching (Social Sciences)

Kendra Gage, Department of Interdisciplinary,
Gender, and Ethnic Studies

James Frey Senior Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship

Daniel Allen, Department of Psychology

Donald Schmiedel Lifetime Service Award

Ralph Buechler, Department of World Languages and Cultures

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Service Award

Minnie Wood, School of Nursing

Scholarship Award

Jinyoung Kim, School of Nursing

Clinical Teaching Award

Cheryl Maes, School of Nursing

Didactic Teaching Award

Necole Leland, School of Nursing

Team Award

Alona Angosta, School of Nursing

Aaron Bellow, Jr., School of Nursing

Esmeralda Clark, School of Nursing

Jennifer Kawi, School of Nursing

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Excellence in Teaching Award

Chad Cross, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Excellence in Research Award

Ann Vuong, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Excellence in Service Award

Brian Labus, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Outstanding Faculty-in-Residence Award

Sheila Janofsky Clark, Department of Environmental
& Occupational Health

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Distinguished Teaching Award

Jennifer Guerra, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Distinguished Researcher Award

Shichun Huang, Department of Geoscience

Rebecca Martin, Department of Physics & Astronomy

Distinguished Service Award

Rohan Dalpatadu, Department of Mathematical Sciences

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award

Claytee White, Oral History Research Center

Outstanding Faculty Service Award

Lateka Grays, Hospitality Librarian

GREENSPUN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

Excellence in Service Award

Dave Nourse, School of Journalism & Media Studies

Excellence in Research Award

Katherine Marcal, School of Social Work

Magdalena Martinez, School of Public Policy and Leadership

Excellence in Teaching Award

Darwin Morgan, Department of Criminal Justice

Ivet Aldaba, School of Social Work

2021 Academic Achievement Awards

UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our
Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

Mark W. Doubrava, Chair

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