2022 STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Conrad N. Hilton Ballroom
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
WELCOME
Gaston Reinoso
Associate VC/VP, Human Resources

GREETINGS
Renu Khator
President

SERVICE RECOGNITION
Ernie Manouse
Emcee

PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

C. F. McElhinney Distinguished Service Award

CLOSING REMARKS
Gaston Reinoso
Associate VC/VP, Human Resources

Special thanks to
University Information Technology
for photographing our award winners!
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARDS
CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

PRESIDENT’S INNOVATION AWARD:
This award recognizes a University employee who embodies innovation and consistently puts forth new and creative initiatives. They think outside the box to improve or create new processes, methods, systems, products or services to improve the University and make UH a better place to live and work.

PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:
This award recognizes a University employee who engages in exemplary community engagement activities such as volunteerism, community based learning, outreach, partnerships, curricular engagement or community based research and collaboration.

PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARDS:
The President’s Excellence Award recognizes meritorious service, dedication and contribution to the University beyond the requirements or expectations of the job. Characteristics of a staff member’s performance that are considered criteria for this award are:

• Superior job performance and a high degree of proficiency in areas of responsibility

• Outstanding personal traits, such as dedication, loyalty, reliability, courtesy, honesty and initiative

• Continuous demonstration of service concepts necessary to support the department and University

• Initiative in making improvements in work methods, standards of operations or in developing new programs, services or cost savings that enhance or support the department and University

• The ability to work cooperatively as a member of the work team
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

President’s Innovation Award

BILAL TRUFANT
Developer
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

President’s Community Service Award

STACY HALLEY
Sr. Director of Advancement
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Effective Leader

**Nikki Duncan**
Recruitment Manager
Human Resources Department

**Lenay Johnson**
Director, Admissions and Recruitment
Graduate and Professional Programs
C.T. Bauer College of Business
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Effective Leader

Tristan Sims
Program Director
Undergraduate Studies
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Administrative Professional

Stacia Dunn
Assistant Director
Academic Affairs and Student Success
Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Administrative Professional

Michelle Nodskov
Program Manager
Office of First Year Programs
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Trinity Rinear
Director
Bonner Leaders Program
The Honors College
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Clerical

Jasmine Harrison
Development Coordinator
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Sylvia Landa
Clinic Coordinator
Pediatric and Binocular Vision Services
University Eye Institute
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Clerical

JANE TRAGESSER
Clinic Director
Communication Sciences and Disorders
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Technical, Service and Craft

RALPH BROWN
Electronics Tech
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cullen College of Engineering
PRESIDENT’S EXCELLENCE AWARD
Technical, Service and Craft

Ivey Davis
User Services Specialist Lead
UIT - Technology Services and Support

Robert Dial
Electrical Tech
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cullen College of Engineering
C. F. McElhinney began his career during the early days of the University of Houston. His service spanned nearly four decades, from faculty member, to business manager, to vice president, to acting president. Recipients of this award are staff members who consistently contribute at the highest level to the teaching and service objectives of our University. They are true leaders and role models. Candidates for the McElhinney Award come from the pool of previous Staff Excellence Award recipients. The McElhinney Award, therefore, recognizes the best of the best.

Past McElhinney Award Winners

Josie Anderson  Elsie Myers
Carol Barr  Charles Neff
Jarry Booth  Craig Ness
Craig Brodd  Donna Norwood
LaSaundra Cotright  Yvonne Norwood
Gerald Davenport  Patsye Pittman
Pat Deeves  Victor Rey
Marceline Devine  Timothy Rosas
Beverly Green  Pat Sayles
Betty Jane Hays  Jon C. Schultz
Charles Henry  Dorothy Seahous
Tung Manh (Tom) Ho  Ona Underhill
Tonja Jones  Jose Valdez
Keith Kowalka  Don Waterman
Fred McGhee  Randolph Wilkin
Amber Mollhagen  Tom Wilson
Diane Murphy  Marion Woods
Maggie Mahoney
Director, Global Engagement

Maggie’s commitment to supporting international engagement at UH is unparalleled. Though this has been a truly monumental challenge since the COVID pandemic struck, Maggie has moved UH smoothly from bringing all students and programs home safely in spring 2020 to guiding us through a safe re-start of Learning Abroad opportunities. Maggie ensured that the team used the hiatus to lead process improvements for student mobility, cross-train staff, and help faculty leaders to stay globally focused and ready to return. In leading UH’s Learning Abroad Risk and Safety Committee, she ensured UH could meet its responsibilities and liabilities for safe programs abroad. Thanks to Maggie’s efforts, not only will UH send more students abroad, we will do so safely and securely.

Maggie takes UH’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access seriously, ensuring that global learning is available to as many UH students as possible. Nowhere is this more evident than her work supporting the Gilman International Scholarship program, a program supporting underrepresented students abroad. Maggie was selected by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to serve as an inaugural Gilman Advisor Ambassador. In that role, she works with colleagues across the nation to share best practices that increase access to study abroad through the support of the Gilman Program.

Faculty and staff have praised Maggie’s cooperative and communicative leadership. The true measure of her customer service focus, however, comes from the many detailed reports and unsolicited praise we hear from Learning Abroad alumni. They return and share how her support and these international experiences shaped their lives. For many, engaging with Maggie has been the first step in a series that have truly changed their lives: from a Learning Abroad experience, to an international research grant, to a professional international position, including several students who are now new U.S. diplomats.

Maggie has established a strong network of global partners across UH and worldwide, and her ability to connect people, empower ideas, and champion opportunities has grown countless UH global programs. In her role as Director for Global Engagement in the Institute for Global Engagement, Dr. Maggie Mahoney is better placed than ever to support UH’s global reach and ambitions.
2022 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS
September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

40-PLUS YEARS
Mark Aycock
Cissy Bean
Charles Chambers
David Dawlearn
Phil Glendinning
Mary Gould
Howard Jares
M Khalili
Elwyn C. Lee
Candy Littleton
Stuart Long
Alan Pfeiffer-Traum
Mary Richards
Diane Salazar
Beatriz Vargas
Brian Walker
Caroline Watkins
Juan Zapata

40-PLUS YEARS
Jeannie Pham
Amber Pozo
Lynn Smith
Kyle Tellez
Jason Tibbitts
Esmeralda Valdez
Fujio Watanabe

25 YEARS
Fatima Acevedo
Alan Austin
Fauzia Aziz Nisar
Timothy Becker
Cynthia Bielamowicz
William Blackburn
Stephen Boss
Lilia Canas
Anthony Carpenter
Randy Clark
Meredith Coleman
Isaac Davis
Emily Estill
Celia Galvan
Linda Garza
Nalan Giannukos
Porfirio Gonzales
Sharon House
John Houston
Jayakrishnan Krishnan
Vu Le
Linda Lee
Michele Luman
Ruth McCleskey
Laura Miller
Julie Nguyen
Kelly Nguyen
Tuyet Nguyen
Dan Olivarez
Dina Padovan
Kathleen Patnaude

35 YEARS
Maria Avila
Margaret Busch
Chau Bush
Dee Canfield
Kevin Draper
Gayle King
Sandra Marino-Rodriguez
Anna Spaunhorst
Vanessa Stepney
Dan Wells

35 YEARS

30 YEARS
Christopher Durham
Guadalupe Garcia
Suzanne Gordon
Karen James
Katina McGhee
Douglas Mueller

30 YEARS
2022 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS
September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

Etna Pellman-Goldsmith
Rebecca Perez
Daphyne Pitre
Fidel Ramirez
Brenda Rhoden
John Robertson
Beverly Rymer
Baldemar Sandoval
Scott Sawyer
Michael Scott
Rayna Spencer
Diane Sylvester
Yolanda Thomas
Chad Thome
Kevin Vu
Tammy Whatley
Quinton Williams

20 YEARS
Michael Ahlf
Raquel Alaniz
Rosemary Aleman
Kendra Alexander
Amy Aragon
Martha Arenas
Tyrance Bailey
Griselda Barcenas
Albert Chan
Chris Cheatham
Mark Clarke
Jeff Conrad
Daniel Cordova
Dona Cornell
James Ely
Esmeralda Fisher
Beverly Garcia
Wendy Gary
Jesse Gonzalez
Darla Goodwin
Terrolyn Gunter
Karl Hearne

Laura Heidel
Todd Hulslander
Irfan Husain
Patricia Ibarra
Latoya Jarmon-Thomas
Heidi Kennedy
Chad Kitko
Paul Klinger
Jennifer Le
Michelle Le
Lateki Lewis
Karin Livingston
Rigoberto Lovo
Jennifer Marsala
Kim Marx
Alice Mattei
Cathy Medina
Elsie Myers
Jay Neal
Amit Patel
James Pettijohn
Sandra Quinteros
Laurie Ramirez
Lisa Roberts
Brenda Robles
Mark Rosanes
Juanita Samuels
Patricia Schwerin
Pamela Simpson
Erica Sims
Jennifer Skopal
Margaret Solomon-Bird
Juanita Terrell
Vanessa Torres
Vinh Trinh
Thu Ha Van
Greg Vetter
Veronica Villalobos
Jeylan Yassin
Sakurako Yurus
Jin Zhang