Many people on the Palomar College campus may not know Jeff because he’s so quiet and unassuming. However, he’s been an integral part of the Information Services team—thus his recognition as employee of the year. Here’s his story…

I started taking night classes at Palomar in 1989. I continued for about 10 years and I finally earned degrees in Electronics and Computer Science. Vickie McCullough hired me as a lab assistant in the Computer Science lab and that was the beginning of my computer career. Scott McClure gave me the opportunity to work as a volunteer in Information Services under the Cooperative Education Program. Later Rick Sanchez hired me as a temporary part-time worker and then I became classified at 25%. In September 2000, Jose Vargas hired me full time and I worked as the night tech from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Now, lately, I’ve been working days.

I love my job. I think Palomar is a wonderful school and a great place to work. I especially enjoy the opportunity to move around the campus and do work in every department.

I felt kind of embarrassed about being nominated for Employee of the Year because there are so many employees that deserve that award. There are people in every department that are outstanding and dedicated. I’m not comfortable being the center of attention and by the time I got up on the platform to receive the award I was so screwed up I couldn’t even say thank you. I can just imagine the gods of ancient Greece laughing as they manipulate us poor mortals … their big joke for September was making me the Classified Employee of the Year.

Now I feel like that Convocation Day was a missed opportunity. I had a chance to address the Dome full of faculty and administrators and I wish I had been able to speak up for all classified employees. I wish I could have reminded them that while students and teachers together in a classroom is at the core of what we do here, in an enterprise the size of Palomar there is a tremendous amount of “logistics” involved in making that happen.

We walk into a classroom and turn on the lights. There is glass in the windows and paint on the walls. The air conditioning works and the roof doesn’t leak. Somebody put the paint on the wall. It was one of us. Somebody planted the flowers by the door. It was one of us. Someone in Financial Aid assisted that student who otherwise wouldn’t be here. It was one of us. When there was an accident someone from Health Services responded quickly. It was one of us.

A couple of weeks ago I drove to work in the fog and forgot to turn my headlights off. After work my battery was dead and I walked over to the Campus Police shack. In a matter of minutes they sent a man to jump start my car. Fast and friendly service put me back on the road. I don’t know the man’s name, but he was one of us.

Employee of the Year is about more than one person, it’s about many people working together to accomplish something. Thank you for the recognition.

Did you Know?

That we update our site frequently with new information and links to essential Web sites?

www.palomar.edu/cce
During Convocation this year, Palomar College honored the employees of the year nominees and designee from each employee group. Below are those recognized in the classified group.

Cristina Armenta, Admissions Asst., Admissions

Petra Caballero, Senior Administrative Secretary, Counseling & Matriculation

Dennis Casey, Academic Dept. Assistant, CSIS

Donna DeYarman, Senior Administrative Secretary, Career, Technical & Extended Ed.

Carmen Eckman, Academic Dept. Assistant, Life Sciences

Dorothy Farrell, Staff Assistant, Counseling & Matriculation

Rebecca Gregory, Staff Aide, Occupational & Noncredit Programs

Melissa Kloz, Financial Aid Advisor, Financial Aid

Marilyn Lunde, Administrative Secretary, Student Affairs

Brenda Morris, Academic Department Assistant, Earth Sciences

Jeff O’Bryant, Information Services Technician, Information Services

Dean Peterson, Academic Technology Specialist, PCEC

Suzanne Szames, Lead Programmer Analyst, Information Services

Gilda Williamson, Maintenance Painter, Building Services/Facilities

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

From All of the CCE Executive Council...

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Let us Know...

Please contact any member of the CCE Executive Council if you have any questions, concerns or issues.

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