

### **Cheyenne Smith-Sarkkinen - Operating Budget Officer**

6 November 2023

Cheyenne stepped in and helped me with a State of Idaho budgeting process on a very short deadline. I did not have access to the system, and she had never completed the process previously. She was prepared for our meeting with other State employees, was patient with me during the process, and carried out the process with diligence and accuracy. Thank you Cheyenne! I could not have done this without you!

### **Jami Redmon - Administrative Assistant**

6 November 2023

Jami worked tirelessly to support our central departments in financial and administrative tasks when we had a severe staff shortage, even though she is not part of our College's central team. She always goes above and beyond, and works to make the University a great place to be in any way she can.

### **Brittini McNeill - College Business Officer II**

6 November 2023

Brittini has been a phenomenal help to me for the last 3 months in assisting with critical admin and financial support during a prolonged vacancy in the Women's Center. She is highly efficient and always ready to help at a moment's notice. The impact of my staffing shortage this semester would have been so much worse had it not been for Brittini's continual collegiality and unhesitating willingness to assist. Thank you, Brittini! I truly appreciate you.

### **Chris Menter - Administrative Specialist II**

6 November 2023

Chris is new to our College, but is working diligently to provide coverage for course scheduling/course fees for several departments outside her standard duties. She does everything with the highest quality, and a positive team oriented attitude.

### **Post Award Team - Sponsored Programs Post Award Team**

6 November 2023

Post Award team has recently had several team members depart for other roles, and as such have been operated with a small team during this period. Despite having such a high volume of work the team has consistently gone above and beyond to handle urgent issues, respond to our sponsors, and to engage with faculty and staff to resolve issues and to collaborate in continuous pursuit of our Carnegie R1 goals. The team is professional and kind and do their best with every action to provide the service needed.

### **Emily Dorigo - Financial Specialist**

6 November 2023

Emily is a half time employee, and handles all personnel contracts and EPAFs for CLASS central team. during a time period of extreme staff shortage in our central administrative unit, she has ensured all tasks are taken care of and completed by organizing he workload, helping to delegate tasks, working extra hours, and taking on many tasks that are normally outside of her duties. she is an invaluable member of our team.

### **Ali Pearce - General Accounting Manager I**

6 November 2023

Kudos to our remarkable General Accounting Manager, Ali Pearce! Since joining our team, Ali has shown incredible dedication and a remarkable ability to adapt. She hit the ground running, seamlessly handling the challenges posed by staff shortages and embracing her new role with enthusiasm. Ali's commitment to personal growth and her team's success is truly inspiring. Her resilience in the face of change and her proactive approach to every challenge make her an invaluable asset to our organization. Well done, Ali, and keep up the outstanding work!

### **Matthew Rueger - Asset Accounting Manager**

6 November 2023

Kudos to Matthew Rueger for his exceptional performance as Asset Accounting Manager! Matthew's seamless transition into his new role, coupled with his remarkable departmental collaboration, has been nothing short of impressive. He's demonstrated a remarkable ability to swiftly grasp surplus and facilities operations, all while maintaining top-notch asset accounting for the university. In a short period, Matthew has already initiated significant and lasting improvements that will undoubtedly have a long-lasting positive impact. Well done, Matthew!

### **Derek Johnson - Business Systems Manager**

6 November 2023

Kudos to Derek Johnson, the backbone of our Business Systems team! Derek's unwavering dedication and willingness to tackle any project, no matter the size, are truly remarkable. His collaborative spirit knows no bounds, as he readily offers his assistance and expertise to anyone across campus, making it a point to brainstorm and find the best solutions together. Derek's approach demonstrates that no problem is too small to address, and his commitment to the team and our campus community is truly commendable.

### **Daniele Bodden - Accounts Payable Manager**

6 November 2023

Kudos to Daniele Bodden, a relentless force for positive change! Daniele's determination and unwavering commitment to making improvements are truly commendable. Joining the team during a period of significant transition, with 67% of her staff being new, including herself, she faced the challenge of limited historical knowledge head-on. Daniele's persistence in the face of adversity is nothing short of inspiring. Though it may have felt like an uphill climb, the improvements she's implemented are now beginning to yield tangible results. Well done, Daniele, your tenacity is making a real difference!

### **Jeff Squires - Team Cleaning Specialist**

7 November 2023

Jeff literally saved our bacon. We have been without a mechanic in facilities for some time now. As we are coming to the end of our mowing season, it was Jeff who ensured that we made it through that season. In the absence of a mechanic, Jeff stepped in to help service our landscape equipment, keep our blades sharp, etc. With Jeff's help we were able to keep up with the maintenance needs of our LES team. Again, Jeff truly was a life saver over these last few months and for that I am grateful for his efforts.

## **Ken McCurry - Director of Facility Services**

8 November 2023

While attending the UI football game vs. Sacramento State I noticed Ken McCurry pulling trash liners, picking up garbage and being there for his team in anyway he could. Ken oversees Custodial, Landscape, Solid Waste, Recycling, and the Arboretum. Ken is super busy...I know this because I see it everyday. However, he still makes time to step into roles to assist his teams when it's needed. I am grateful for the work and extra effort he puts in to make sure the fan, and student experience is a top priority.

## **Rodrigo Juarez and John Grimes - College Sponsored Prog Admin & Grants &**

10 November 2023

The Center for Intelligent Industrial Robotics was running against a grant deadline when the natural gas pipeline went out. Despite being off for due to the heat problems, Rodrigo Juarez and John Grimes took extra time to help us get the grant in before the deadline. These two have been incredible to work with during this process and we appreciate their time, effort, and expertise!

## **Tristan Alfred - Campus & Event Safety/Security**

21 November 2023

The Office of Public Safety and Security received a card from a member of the public who was grateful for Tristan's assistance and professionalism. Two visitors during the Montana Football game on 10/14 were lost and unable to locate their car. Tristan went above and beyond helping them look through a number of University Parking lots to find their car and get them to where they needed to be safely after the football game. They wanted the university and the Office of Public Safety and Security to know that he was a great ambassador for the University of Idaho.

## **Aaron Rice - Construction Inspector**

27 November 2023

An employee of a State of Idaho Agency who has an office on campus was locked out of his office Wednesday afternoon, November 22, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, after all UI employees had left campus for the day. The employee's keys were in the locked office, to include his car keys. The employee lives in Post Falls, and had no way home. UI OPSS was contacted, but were unable to open the employee's office. Options appeared to be A) the employee's spouse could drive down from Post Falls to pick them up, or B) the employee could rent a car to drive home to Post Falls. Aaron Rice saved the day. Although Aaron had gone home for the day, and was not on call, when contacted he left his home in Pullman, Washington and drove back to campus. He was able to unlock the State of Idaho employee's office, allowing the employee to retrieve his keys and drive home to Post Falls for the Holiday. Aaron went well above and beyond to help out a person who was in distress and who seemingly had no good options to simply get home for Thanksgiving. That Aaron was willing to return to campus from his home in Pullman on the eve of a Holiday to help out and provide a solution is impressive. Thank you Aaron, your efforts are very much appreciated.