

ACAA

# Excellence in Advising Awards

May 24, 2022





Congratulations to all of  
our 2022 nominees!



Thank you for all of your dedication  
and hard work for all  
University of Oregon students!



# Dr. Alison Schmitke

Faculty Advisor  
College of Education



"Alison is a deeply caring mentor, thoughtful teacher, and wise advisor...Students regularly indicate that their work with her is one of the highlights of their time at UO."

"She has created a safe environment in her classroom where you are free to be yourself, and are welcomed with open arms."

"It's rare to know a program administrator who excels in supporting and advising students' academic, identity, and personal needs, as well as someone who excels in administrative and curricular needs. Dr. Alison Schmitke is that rare individual!"



# Charlie Just

## Professional Advisor

### Lundquist College of Business



"Charlie has helped me so much in earning my degree. The advising process was always something I looked forward to because he is an amazing advisor and makes the process stress free and fun. He truly loves his job and cares about all the students who come through his door. I have personally seen him go above and beyond both for me and other students across the college."



"Charlie has been the most positive influence in my academic career!"



# Clara Martinez

Professional Advisor  
Tykeson College & Career Advising





# Arturo Zavala

## Professional Advisor

### College of Design



"Arturo is creative and passionate about his work, listening to students' needs and interests, and working to be an advocate for them at both the individual level, and at the institutional level."

"He brings in a sense of positive energy, coupled with thoughtful support, that ensures students feel heard and cared for. He always helps them make the best decision for their interests and paths, truly modeling what it is to walk alongside students in their journey."





# Damien Pitts

## Professional Advisor

### Lundquist College of Business

"Damien has been nothing short of outstanding. He has helped me get the most out of my college experience, has been a tremendous mentor, and has helped me achieve my goals here at UO."

"He cares about students and goes above and beyond to create meaningful relationships with them. Even when I hadn't seen him in months, he remembered my name and went out of his way to say hi to me on campus."

"I'm extremely grateful that there is a person so heartwarming and friendly that is helping students get where they need to!"





Dr. Stephen Dueppen  
Faculty Advisor  
Department of Anthropology





# Dr. Leslie McLees

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of Geography



"Leslie puts students above all other aspects of her job."

"Even if she was not my advisor, Leslie has the traits I seek in a friend. She is selfless, understanding, and encourages me to get help when and where I need it. As an advisor, she pushes us to achieve our best, even amidst challenges that feel like they can limit us."

"Transferring schools amidst a pandemic is no easy feat. I felt lonely and unconnected at UO and Leslie helped me find a degree and career path that made me excited about learning. Before coming to UO, I was hesitant about finishing college and now I am looking to complete a masters and potentially doctorate."





# Dr. Corbett Upton

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of English

"Dr. Upton is one of the most caring individuals I have met at my time at University of Oregon. He has a real passion for helping students, and is always eager to help me in my learning."

"He encourages creativity and experimentation and readily provides assistance or advice to help realize those dreams- this, to me, reflects the utmost for care for student's well-being and shows a high level of respect."

"Dr. Upton presents each student he advises with genuine care, concern, support, and encouragement. In addition, he will kindly give students nudges forward when they need it, encouraging them to speak up, share their voices, take steps further toward their goals and ambitions that they may otherwise be unaware of or hesitant to take. Dr. Upton is an incredible cheerleader to have in one's corner! I will be grateful forever for him. "





# Dulce Castro

Professional Advisor  
Clark Honors College



# Dr. Dean Mundy

Faculty Advisor

School of Journalism and Communication



"Dean has been an outstanding mentor academically and professionally. Throughout the past 2 years of working with him he has taken his passion of creating opportunities for us and really pushed me to pursue my individual career interests."

"Whenever I have conversations with other peers who are struggling to figure out what they want to do I always refer them to Dean, because he gives great clarity and asks insightful questions so that we are coming up with our own answers instead of feeling like we are being told to do something. He continually uplifts and reminds us of our own talents."







# Dr. Christopher Hendon

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

"Prof. Hendon is a beacon of inclusion in both his work in the coffee laboratory and in computational chemistry....His care for the students has been amplified over the past two years, where he creatively found ways to limit their exposure to risk, while providing them with the support and infrastructure to continue to succeed "

"Prof. Hendon's approach can be summarized as lowering barriers to communication, resulting in improved inclusion and excellence from his students in class, and his researchers in lab."





Bob Choquette

Faculty Advisor

School of Planning, Public Policy and Management





# Dr. Angela Rovak

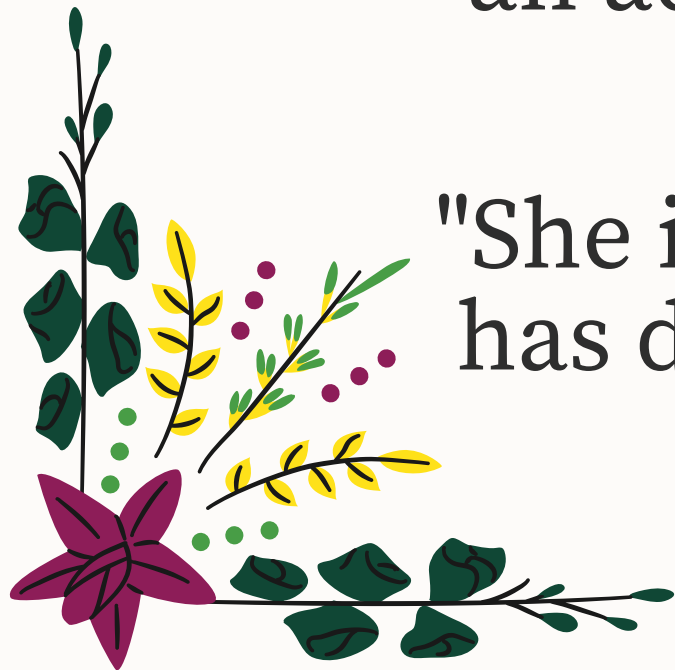
Professional Advisor  
Clark Honors College



"Dr. Rovak was one of the first people to contact me after acceptance to UO. By talking with her about just my general interest and classes I should take, I felt so much more comfortable going into my first year at UO...Dr. Rovak cares about my future and the path I lay for myself, and she is there to always help guide me. "

"Angela encourages student success in so many different ways. As an advisor, she pushes students to take charge of their academic experience--to explore and to grow."

"She is an indispensable member of the CHC community, and she has done so much to assist the college with building a supportive and inclusive culture of care for our students."



# Dr. Donnalyn Pompper

## Faculty Advisor

### School of Journalism and Communication



"Dr. Pompper has been so helpful in getting me involved at the UO while also helping me grow and develop as a student and person. I'm so thankful to her guidance throughout my time at the UO and I know that any SOJC student is lucky to have her as a professor and advisor."

"Since the moment I watched Dr. Pompper's first lecture, I knew that she will always be there for me and wants to help me through any problems I am having."

"...because of Dr. Pompper, I have someone who is there to be my cheerleader and reassure me that I am on the right path and help me find opportunities that will motivate me again. "





Adam Hinkley  
Professional Advisor  
Tykeson College & Career Advising



# Elizabeth Milner

## Professional Advisor

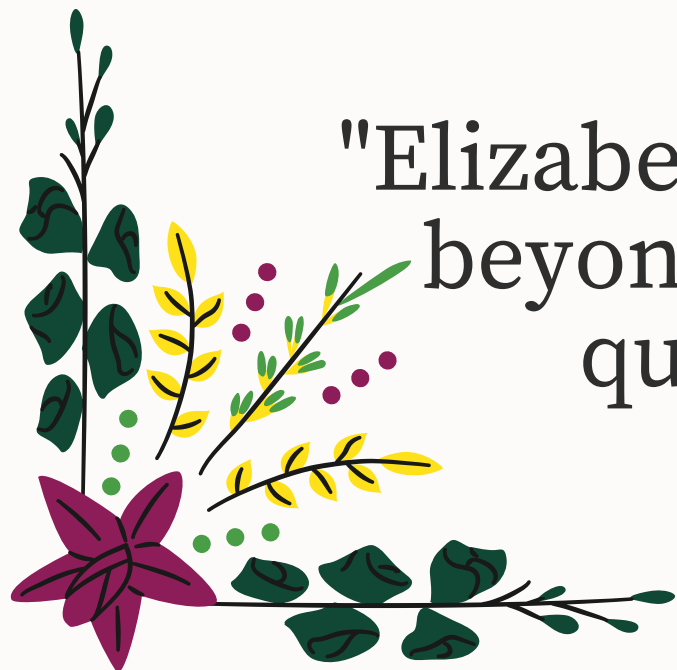
### Tykeson College & Career Advising



"Elizabeth has a long history of providing thoughtful, clear and concise guidance to students at UO from many different majors and backgrounds!"

"For decisions that feel very personal at times, I feel comfortable talking to her about my questions, as I feel that she doesn't judge me, but helps me out."

"Elizabeth is an amazing advisor and colleague. She goes above and beyond to get students and colleagues answers to their advising questions and/or to the right place to get their answers."





# Emily Henkelman

Professional Advisor

School of Journalism and Communication

"From my first interaction with her freshman year, she has done nothing but care and advocate for me. She takes time to genuinely get to know her students, including myself. "

"My experience at the SOJC and the University of Oregon would not have been the same without Emily Henkelman. From the first day I met with her, Emily has been supportive, flexible, knowledgeable, and most importantly, a reassuring voice throughout the whirlwind of college."





# Emma Bjorngard Basayne

Professional Advisor  
College of Education



"Emma has gone above and beyond to make me feel welcome at the University. I am a transfer student and from the first advisory appointment I had with her she made me feel like a part of the UO community and has advocated for me to have the best education I can."

"She is hands down the best advisor I have ever worked with and I know she has my best interest at heart always!"







# Jeff Ransford

Professional Advisor  
Pathway Oregon





# Dr. Eric Wills

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of Computer and Information Science

"Eric always remembers his students and checks up on them. He is always available and all of his classes are a delight to take...He is everything the CS department needs! He is the best!"



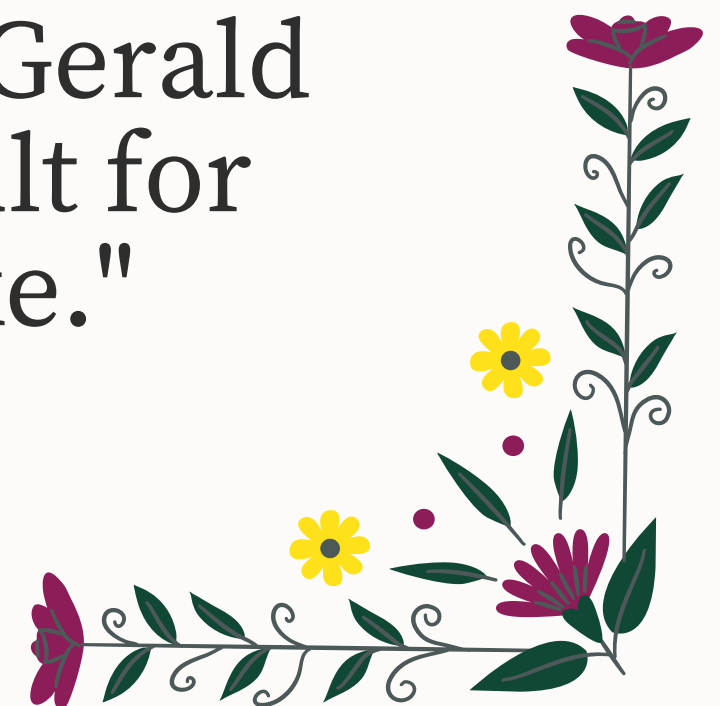


# Gerald Gast

## Faculty Advisor

## College of Design

"Gerald is an outstanding professor, helping students on and off work, giving open suggestions for projects, academic life, and homework alike. Often devoting hours discussing the integrity of work in architecture and personal development...I would personally regard Gerald Gast as a wonderful faculty advisor, great to consult for academic studies, life, and personal growth alike."



# Jessica Matthiesen

Professional Advisor

School of Planning, Public Policy and Management



"Jessica supports the PPPM Equity Initiative...by advocating for interest of the undergraduate students. She helped me as a student of color find an internship by connecting me with another student of color to talk about their summer internship and the emerging leaders program. I had a really difficult experience in my internship and she was there to support me in navigating the professional space...It was because she taught us the importance of networking and using my network that I found my current job through my internship supervisor. She is very good about supporting me with what she can and connecting me with other students or staff for what she can't.

I would not be where I am without her."





# Jessa Heath

Professional Advisor  
Pathway Oregon



# Dr. Ioannis Branikas

Faculty Advisor  
Lundquist College of Business



"Ioannis is great at making sure everyone feels like a welcomed member of the class. Whenever someone has a question or is answering a problem he always asks them for their names. He even tends to remember them in the following classes. He's built a great connection with the students and is one of the best professors I've had at making sure his class feels like a safe space for all."







# Heather Bottorff

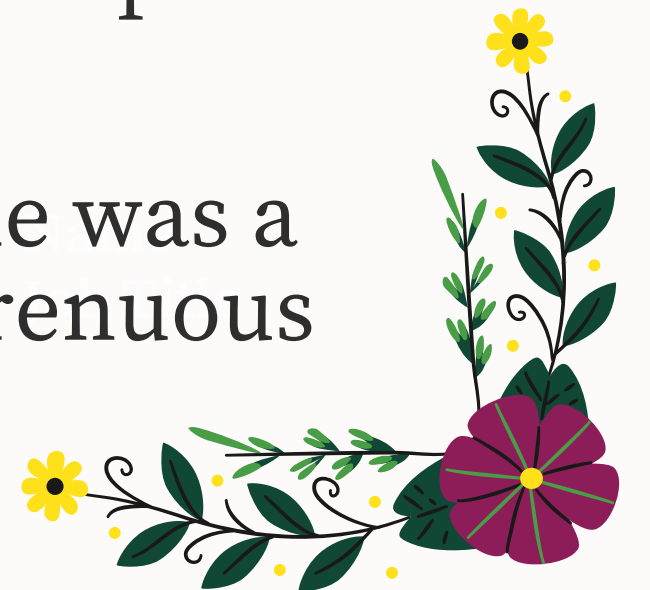
## Professional Advisor Lundquist College of Business

"Heather was very supportive during the pandemic. Being able to connect with Heather in such an isolating situation became very important to me. I felt a connection to the UO outside of classes through Heather...I felt like she knew me and cared about my success. "

"Even if I call her on the last day of registration, stressed because I forgot to register for classes, Heather makes me feel calm and helps me make rational decisions about what to take next. She's been a huge contributor to my success academically at the University of Oregon because she helps me find classes that fit my interest best."

"Without Heather, I doubt I would still be in the 3+1 program. She was a support system who helped me develop the grit to get through strenuous workloads. "

"She's the epitome of what it means to be a Duck. "





# Julia Morril

Professional Advisor  
Tykeson College & Career Advising



# Jamie Hoag Barnett

## Professional Advisor

### Lundquist College of Business



"She is an outstanding advisor. She is personable, caring and organized. She goes above and beyond to make her students feel as if they have someone in their corner. I have been seeing Jamie as an advisor four all four years of college and despite her seeing numerous other students she somehow always remembers what I am passionate about and recommends courses that align with my interests."

"I feel more connected to Jamie than most of my professors, she encourages me to pursue my passions both at UO and beyond."



# Gretchen Hill Marino

Professional Advisor

Tykeson College & Career Advising



"Gretchen inherently sustains engaging, empathetic, and affirmative relationships with students and staff from diverse backgrounds."

"She made me feel safe and welcome as an international student. Gretchen is amazing and she continues to be one of the safe places I turn to today. "

"She has dedicated herself and time to helping all populations on campus including Veterans. I identify as a Veteran, Chicano, and Duck. Without the help and caring advise from Gretchen, I would have not successfully made it through U of O with a degree...No words can express how grateful and lucky I feel that our paths crossed at a pivotal time in my life."





# Dr. Kate Zipay

## Faculty Advisor

### Lundquist College of Business

"Professor Kate, is by far the most wonderful Professor that I ever had at the university. I really like how she respects all her students and is willing to listen to what they have to say. Her teaching style and her way of getting students to engage in her class helps students better understand that major departments which helps undergraduate determine their major."







Dr. Karen Durany

Faculty Advisor  
College of Education





# Dr. Kathleen Freeman

Faculty Advisor

Department of Computer and Information Science



"Kathleen cares about each student's well-being and takes the time to get to know their individual situations when advising them on the best classes to take or where they should start in the major."

"Kathleen and the CIS department have taken care to create policies and procedures intended to best set up students for academic success...When Kathleen received feedback that a departmental policy was confusing for other advisors and students, Kathleen took the time to further examine it and worked together with other advisors, students, and the department to revise it.

She took great care to make sure students had the ability to provide input too...Kathleen is aware students come from diverse backgrounds and learning styles, so she worked with the TAEC to implement class encore offerings every term for the CIS 210-212 sequence for additional student support. "





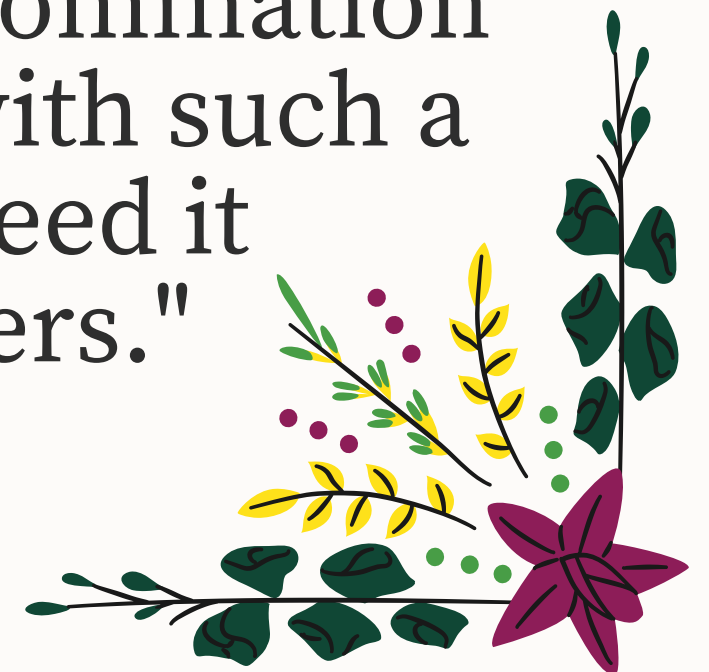
# Katie Heidt

## Professional Advisor

### TRIO Student Support Services

"Katie identifies obstacles, solves problems, and advocates for students in multiple ways; they go above and beyond helping students and staff members...Katie pushes students to think critically about their educational experiences, and connects students with opportunities for personal growth."

"Katie is a phenomenal human being, and deserves this nomination because they have provided the UO and the community with such a big heart, and are always willing to help those who need it immediately and has such compassion towards others."



# Kenlei Cowell

## Professional Advisor

### Tykeson College & Career Advising



"Kenlei individualizes each student experience and remembers past interactions with students. Students who met with Kenlei will request to meet with them again for their subsequent advising appointments because they felt listened to and cared for in their first interaction. "

"I've had a very uncertain two years as my study abroad keeps getting deferred due to covid, and I'll rush in stressed about what classes I need to take for a term I wasn't supposed to be here for. They patiently walk me through where I am, where I need to go moving forward, and what opportunities I should look towards in the future regarding graduate school, or what to do if I never make it abroad."

"I feel so thankful to have met someone whose advising style is professional while still being compassionate and personable. In my mind, Kenlei's style of supporting students also seems social-justice-and-trauma-aware"





Liska Chan  
Faculty Advisor  
School of Architecture & Environment







# Khasya Cunningham

## Professional Advisor Office of Academic Advising

"Khasya is warm, funny, and clearly cares about the students and wants to know more about their lives. She will help students outside of appointments when needed without any hesitation...Khasya does an excellent job explaining the confusing details to students in a way they can understand easily. As a lead on the OAA Outreach Team, she goes out of her way to communicate with students who have been tagged as students needing more support...Khasya helps students who are applying for reinstatement think critically about their educational goals before returning to the UO. She attends Super Soul Tuesdays every Tuesday to support Black students."



# Kim Rambo-Reinitz

Professional Advisor  
Lundquist College of Business



"Kim is someone that is clearly passionate about her work, and her positive attitude makes it easy for me to talk to her whenever I need to. "

"This past year I have been through a lot as a student athlete such as surgery, COVID, and trying to stay on top of school with everything going on. Kim has been easy to get into contact with and very helpful with coordinating between me and my professors. She makes me feel comfortable expressing my concerns and is always there to help...She has showed me how to find life outside of school and track!"





# Kristin Grieger

Faculty Advisor  
College of Design



"Kristin's advising applies to a diverse range of places, and her experience is not limited to the area around Eugene and the pacific northwest...I came to Kristin with an interest in understanding the job application process post-graduation for architecture, and had some ideas coming in about what it would be like. Not only did she dispel some rumors and false information, she gave me solid advice that was not specific to design firms and jobs outside of school."





# Dr. Sarah DuBrow

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of Psychology

"I am nominating Professor DuBrow for this award because she was a constant supporter of not only my lab work, but of my personal growth. She provided a welcoming place for students of all backgrounds to learn about the research process and learn about one of the most interesting topics: the brain...The most important thing I will take from my experience with Professor DuBrow is the value of mentorship. When I started research, I knew nothing, but I always felt comfortable going to her for help and guidance. With her, I was able to set my goals, and often times, surpass them. My success as a researcher and an academic is because of how approachable Professor DuBrow was and her willingness to build another person's career from the ground up. ...Because of Professor DuBrow and the positive research experiences I have had in her lab, I am now aiming to obtain an MD/PhD. "



# Lorena Landeros

## Professional Advisor

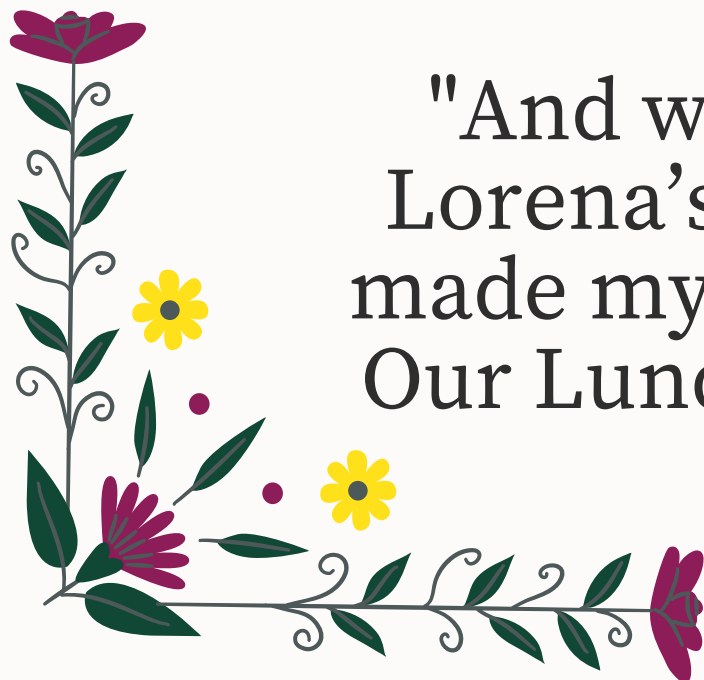
### Lundquist College of Business



"In Lorena's role coordinating the Business ARC she works tirelessly to recruit and support students from all backgrounds...Lorena strives to create an inviting, respectful and fun environment for all ARC residents. Lorena's advising style creates genuine relationships because she meets students where they are at and with compassion, yet she expects that they contribute to the advising process."

"Lorena balances her desire to help and assist students, with challenging them to think critically and grow as a person and as a student."

"And while there may not have been a category for this....as a colleague, Lorena's care, support, snark, humor and overall way of being have surely made my work life better. And especially during Covid/remote/hybrid work! Our Lundquist and campus advising community is better with Lorena in it!"





# Megan Weiler

Professional Advisor  
Tykeson College & Career Advising







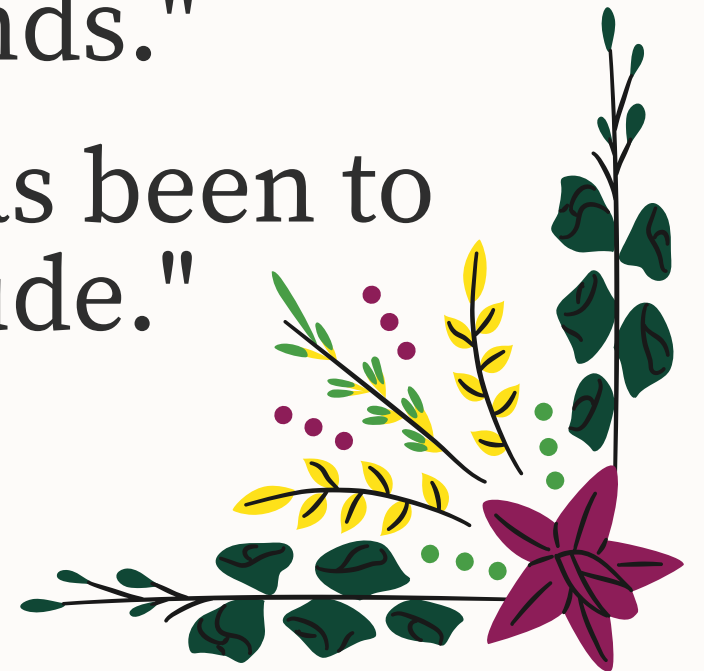
# Louie Bottaro

## Professional Advisor College of Design

"No matter who he is meeting with, his demeanor never waivers. Whether it's some tough love, inspiring words, or just someone to meet you where you're at, Louie is a constant support no matter your background."

"Louie Bottaro did a wonderful job of connecting personally with every student in his FIG last term. He asked us about our lives and shared about himself in ways that really formed bonds."

"If I were to tell him to his face how much of a help he has been to me, I can confidently say I would cry tears of gratitude."







# Tara Parrillo

## Professional Advisor

### TRIO Student Support Services

"Tara is always open to having a conversation even if it's just to check in on me and speak about how my term is going. She cares about me staying on track and is always my go-to person if I have any questions about any topic...Tara always asks me about what path I think would be best for me and then explains to me what the next steps are and is always there to guide me."



# Paige Schoenborn

## Professional Advisor

### Tykeson College & Career Advising



"From the the very first moment that I met Paige, I felt that she made a genuine effort to learn my situation as a student and that she truly understood that my academic experience/life experience has been far from the traditional student. While it took me quite a while to feel like I belonged and mattered on this campus, Paige has helped me realize that I do matter and that I do belong here -- despite my untraditional path...I feel truly seen by her and feel that she truly respects my identity. She makes me feel safe and is often way more than just an academic advisor to me -- she is a friend. So much so, that often times we can get lost in conversation because she is so easy to talk to. I really can't say enough about how welcoming and responsive she has been to my needs as a student."



# Lucy Rojas Henderson

Professional Advisor

Tykeson College & Career Advising



"I met with Lucy for the first time earlier this week, and she was very empathetic, and made me feel seen. I appreciated having the chance to speak with her, because I walked away feeling like I had a genuine conversation. What made our conversation great, was her ability to affirm me that life isn't linear, and it's okay to not know what the future holds. She was very encouraging, and I appreciated her supporting me in my decision to change majors...She encouraged me to listen to my feelings and make the most of my time here doing things that I care about. Lucy helped encourage me to take the leap I've been wanting to do for a while. "





# Stella-Marie Akindayomi

Professional Advisor

Center for Multicultural Academic Exce







# Dr. Melissa Baese-Berk

## Faculty Advisor

### Department of Linguistics

"Melissa always makes effort to monitor our well-being. Whenever we meet for advising, she would always ask if there I'm having any problems, both in school and outside of school. She's very encouraging, reassuring, and understanding, and when I do have problems or when I'm feeling burned out, she gives tips on how to better take care of myself and my mental health. I always feel much better after I talk to her about my problems."

"Melissa really values teaching, and even though she meets with a lot of students (both undergraduate and graduate), she always gives her full attention to all of us and always manages to give useful advice and feedback. "





# Sam Nussbaum

Professional Advisor

School of Journalism and Communication



"Sam has a demonstrated passion for service towards students and the team. She is kind, caring, and tactful. Her lived experiences show when she advises students with different identity and backgrounds. Sam has a strong ability to explain complex information in simple terms such as degree completion requirements and the degree audit document. Her conversations with students run smooth because she is able to connect with them in a deeper level that allows students feel safe and supported."





Zoe Merrill Keating

Professional Advisor

Accessible Education Center



Name  
Job Title



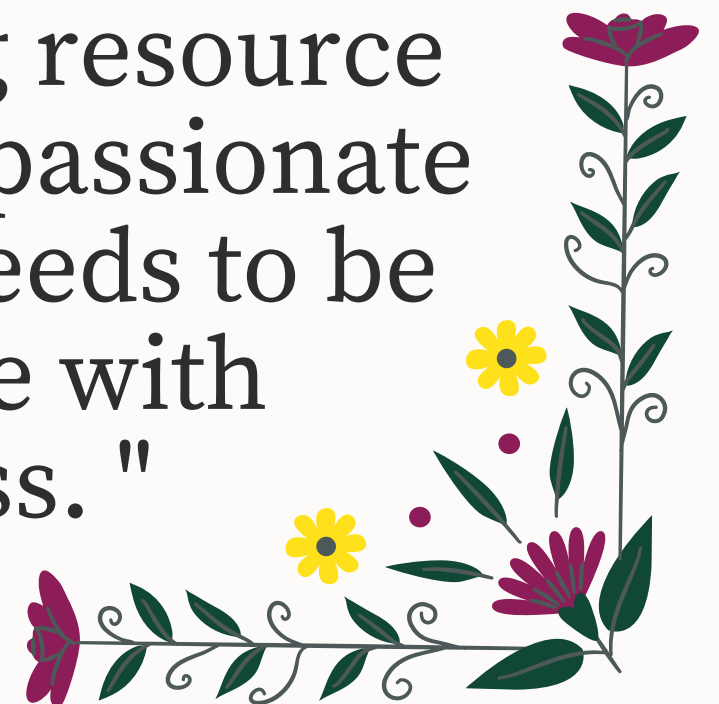
# Rebecca Ramos

## Professional Advisor

### Tykeson College & Career Advising

"Rebecca takes time to create space with students where they can share fully of themselves...She advocates for inclusive pedagogy, easier access for students to personal and academic resources, and empowering students with the important information they need to make choices that best support their goals."

"Rebecca is truly an exemplary advisor. She is an amazing resource for both students and her colleagues. She is kind and compassionate and speaks up when something important and difficult needs to be addressed. I value Rebecca's willingness to collaborate with everyone and anyone in the name of student success."



# Rachel McNie

Professional Advisor

College of Design



"Rachel has done a really good job with training peer advisors. She has done a really good job with connecting interpersonally and making me personally feel welcome into a group of new people I had never met before and creating a safe space...She is extremely organized and asks students open ended questions to get to the root of why they are attending meetings. She takes the time to find the answer to the root of their problems rather than just answering surface level questions."





# Matthias Vogel

Faculty Advisor  
Department of German & Scandinavian







Rachel Allen  
Professional Advisor  
School of Journalism and Communication





Thank you to the Division of  
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to make these awards possible!

