

**This year's winner is Recruiting & Events Coordinator for the Career Center
Brenda Dumas**



Nomination Text:

Brenda Dumas is the Recruiting & Events Coordinator for the Career Center, but she has served in many roles in her 20+ years at CSUSM. She is a wealth of knowledge and is the backbone for the entire Career Center staff.

In addition to her huge role, she also manages the marketing student ambassadors as well as the marketing team. Since the pandemic, our marketing strategies have bumped all of our attendance up. This includes virtual career fairs, virtual workshops, the JCPenney Suit Up event (virtual) and virtual counseling appointments. She also holds a "Zoom Room" during all virtual events for students, alumni, staff, faculty and employers to help them get where they are trying to go.

Many departments on campus struggled with the transition from working on campus to telecommuting, and the same is true for the Career Center, but Brenda went above and beyond by attempting to learn all the of the software and help the staff understand it as

well. She is a leader and understands the bigger picture when it comes to the Career Center's success. She is always implementing new strategies to help bring the Career Center to the next level, yet she is so humble, and will be the first person to admit when the idea may not work as she had originally planned. Brenda's input is innovative and 100% student-centered.

The Career Center went through some large transitions in addition to the pandemic. We merged with the Office of Internships and have been working as a leader department for the Career Readiness initiative. Wouldn't you know it, Brenda was the first person to reach out to help get the Career Center and the Internships staff on the same page even though we have not worked face-to-face since the merge. She knows the campus departments, and a lot of faculty and staff, so her contributions to the Career Center's response to the Career Readiness Initiative have been priceless. Ask any Director (former or present) about Brenda's contribution to the Career Center, and they will all agree that she is absolutely invaluable.

Some of us refer to her as the "Mom" of the Career Center because she always, and I mean always, has a solution to any issue or need. If you have a question about the Career Center, Brenda WILL know the answer. We nominate Brenda Dumas for the Behind the Scenes Award because she works so hard behind the scenes and hardly ever gets the recognition she deserves. We love you Brenda and you're never allowed to leave the Career Center!