

## Program of the Year award winner is the Cougar Care Network



### Nomination Text:

The Cougar Care Network has seen astronomical numbers this year, with students facing unprecedented challenges from financial crisis, family upheaval, job loss, deaths of loved ones, the list goes on. They have handled it with grace, efficiency, and compassion. I truly believe this group of people saves lives.

CSUSM cares about our students' success - this is especially true within the Cougar Care Network team and its motivation, advocacy and unwavering dedication to students. The members of the Cougar Care Network team truly go far beyond the vision and mission to ensure students' personal and academic success that is difficult to put into words. The COVID-19 Pandemic brought many of our students' underlying difficulties to the surface; especially when it comes to basic needs. These unprecedented life events skyrocketed the demands, stress and traumas amongst many Cougars. Specifically, 2,352 CSUSM students served so far in the 2020-2021 academic year alone. This number will grow as the academic year has not yet concluded. The CSUSM team has put their own special touch on each and every connection they have made with our students in need. While this year has undoubtedly impacted all of our

energy, the CCN Team does not let that hinder their tenacity to make sure students know that CSUSM cares about them and that they each feel heard, seen and respected. The qualities that every single member of the CCN team possesses are such invaluable attributes that make this program so special: selflessness, servant leadership, heart, perseverance, and humility. It is for these reasons that I enthusiastically submit this nomination for the Cougar Care Network Team - they are an example for us all and inspire me every day.