



Dear Campus Community,

It is my pleasure to share that Jennifer Ralph, environmental health & occupational safety specialist in the Office of Safety, Health and Sustainability (SHS), is the recipient of this year's Ernest & Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award. The Zomalt Award honors the significant achievements of an individual who exemplifies our university's mission through service to our campus community. Jennifer has been a role model for cross-functional collaboration and teamwork throughout her five-year CSUSM career, most notably this year during the COVID-19 crisis.

In 2020, Jennifer has faced the many challenges posed by the pandemic with composure, offering sound guidance to sustain the wellness of our campus community. Her skills and subject matter expertise were critical in early planning and continue to be at the forefront for complete infection control based on public health orders and our current campus health and safety needs.

Since late February, she has worked closely in partnership with her SHS colleagues as well as the Emergency Operations Center administrative teams, Events & Conference Services, Human Resources, Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS), and the University Student Union (USU). She aided with the pivot to a hybrid campus via the creation and implementation of cleaning /disinfection plans and vehicle procedures, and she was a primary contributor on the Return to Work-Risk Assessment as well as offered guidance on the opening of the computer lab in the USU ballroom.

Outside of the pandemic, Jennifer conducts presentations for students, faculty, staff and visitors related to complex risk assessments and investigations for the university. She also performs incident management and leads extensive first-aid and CPR training. Jennifer was a vital team member in the reaccreditation process for SHCS from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

Her dedication to our personnel and student body is extraordinary. One of Jennifer's nominators noted that Jennifer even has volunteered to do the laundry for any students impacted by COVID-19 in student housing. This speaks volumes about her commitment to this university and offering her best in service with the heart of a Cougar.

I am honored to bestow the Ernest & Leslie Zomalt Outstanding Service Award to Jennifer Ralph. Please join me on Jan. 21 as we recognize Jennifer and all our 2020/21 faculty and staff award recipients during the virtual CSUSM Awards and Service Celebration.

Sincerely,  
Ellen J. Neufeldt, Ed.D.  
President

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