

CLASS OF 2020 HONORS

Medford Jones Servant Leader Awardees:



Jenny Rodriguez - Jenny Rodriguez has been the consummate servant leader during her time at HIU. She was employed in multiple job positions that included information desk worker, library tutor, and phone-a-thon caller. In all of these positions, she has been willing to help with whatever needs to be done. Her peers shared that they could count on her to be available to serve and support them. Her role as a tutor has been a fulfilling from for her. She stated that in her role a tutor, "There is nothing better than knowing that I helped students understand a concept that they previously believed was confusing." Furthermore, she also volunteered in the program Hope Mates mentoring elementary students. In this role she was able to come along side elementary students offering advice and support. While outside of school, her focus is on spreading the Gospel through her interactions with others. She stated, "I take risks and start up conversations with strangers and treat them in the way that is Christ like. In most cases, these people are intrigued by my kindness and ask me what motivates me. In those moments I share the Gospel with them." - Dr. Doug Domene, Dean of the College of Education



Leigha Williams - Leigha has earned All GSAC Honors for both the 2018 and 2019 season, earned GSAC Scholar-Athlete for both 2018 and 2019, earned NAIA All American Honorable Mention in 2018, and earned Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 2018. Leigha helped lead her team to their first ever GSAC Tournament Championship in 2018. Leigha exemplifies the pillar of Servant Leadership in the NAIA Champion of Character core values. At her alma mater Fountain Valley High School Leigha was a member of the human-to-human club where they made sandwiches for the homeless and a member of Fellowship for Christian Athletes. Leigha also volunteered at NHB Academy Nights at Hope View School where she facilitated a 7-week soccer training for 8-9 year old boys to teach and demonstrate skills, drills, and sportsmanship. Leigha volunteered as a teacher's assistant at Carrillo Elementary where she worked with Special Disabled Classes and assisted with their work, teaching math, and making crafts with t the children. Leigha also participated in Tim Tebow Foundation's, Night to Shine, while during this experience she made friendships and gave special needs children a true prom experience. Leigha also excels in the classroom as she maintains a 3.78 overall GPA. She is majoring in Business Management with a concentration in Accounting and aspires to become a Certified Personal Accountant and do Forensic Accounting or Compliance after graduation this May. She currently is working at an accounting firm where she works as an assistant account executive/bookkeeper. She was the VP for the Student Government Association, has been a business and accounting tutor for the past two years, and captain for the women's soccer team. - Andrew Paine, Chair, Online Undergraduate Program; Associate Business and Accounting Professor



Michelle Young - Michelle "Shelli" Young is an adult learner. She is an amazing student. Coming into the program after being away from school for so long, she was anxious and nervous. She is a single parent and her daughter is simultaneously attending CSUF and she joked around about going to school with her daughter. She has been in a professional environment for quite some time and she wanted a degree to back her up. She actually was the FIRST student I had ever recruited in my position and its great to see her finish strong. She is a perfectionist by nature. Her schedule included a full-time job, putting her daughter through college, and also going to school full-time herself. She completed Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsay and was able to pay for her schooling out of pocket as well as put her daughter through school without any debt. I would get communication from her regularly and she was always a delight to talk to. She had a positive attitude and used her professional experience in her threaded discussions. She said that students had learned a lot from her and she too, was able to learn from them. - Denise Castillo, Academic Coach