



MEDIA RELEASE

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ASI TEAM MEMBERS NAMED DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS AT THE 24th ANNUAL UNITY LUNCHEON

POMONA, California — March 16, 2016 — Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) is proud to announce the awarding of Diversity Champions to Diana Ascencio, ASI vice president, on behalf of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association (LFSA), and Shelbi Long, ASI associate director of recreation, on behalf of the Pride Alliance at the 24th Annual Unity Luncheon hosted by the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016 in the Bronco Student Center (BSC).

This year's theme for Unity Luncheon was "Marching Forward Together," and it emphasized the importance of inclusion on behalf of all students, staff, faculty and alumni on the Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) campus. The Unity Luncheon is held every year to celebrate diversity and raise awareness of underrepresented communities on campus and their hardships. The program highlight recognizes and awards various students and staff as Diversity Champions—individuals from different affinity groups that have shown a persistent effort to bring light to and improve conditions in these communities.

Recognized by the LFSA as an advocate for undocumented students, Ascencio said "it is my duty to continue this fight for social justice, especially for undocumented students." As an undocumented student herself, Ascencio credits her accolades to her friends and family, as well as the students, staff and faculty on the CPP campus that have encouraged her diversity and have given her the confidence to believe in herself. Ascencio also thanks ASI for teaching her how to be a better leader in her everyday life.

Having worked with the Pride Alliance for nine years and served a double term as Pride Alliance President for four, Long's recognition as a Diversity Champion was described as "long overdue." Long is proud to be a part of ASI Campus Recreation, where inclusion and diversity are both core values. According to Long, "If you aren't including everyone, you're leaving someone

cc: Julian Herrera
Cora Culla

out.” This is evident in her endeavors to create an inclusive universal changing room in the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex (BRIC), as well as her active participation in Pride Alliance. Long said she is excited to continue to provide students with opportunities to become better citizens as ASI’s associate director of recreation.

ASI Executive Director Cora Culla said, “Our campus is enriched by our deep awareness, respect and advocacy for inclusiveness and diversity. We are proud that Diana and Shelbi have been recognized for exemplifying what it truly means to be Diversity Champions!”

CPP President Soraya Coley reminded the audience, “The strength of our campus is diversity, and inclusion means belonging—we all belong here,” and is confident the various Diversity Champions awarded at the Unity Luncheon will continue to bring awareness to the importance of diversity on campus.

To view photos from the event, please click [here](#).

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ASI is a non-profit corporation that provides facilities, programs and services to students as well as student representation at the campus level and the California State University system-wide level. ASI is comprised of student leaders, student staff and professional staff. A majority of ASI programs and services are run by students and guided by full-time staff, fulfilling the motto of “students serving students.” For more information about ASI, visit asi.cpp.edu.