
Monroe University Celebrates Excellence with 2025 Staff Recognition Awards

BRONX, NY, December 6, 2024 -- Monroe University today proudly announced the recipients of its 2024 Staff Recognition Awards, honoring the dedication, talent, and outstanding contributions of employees across the institution.

Now in its third year, the annual awards program highlights exceptional staff performance in alignment with Monroe's core values and vibrant campus culture.

Inspired by the University's Faculty of Distinction initiative, which celebrates excellence in teaching, the Staff Recognition Awards are uniquely peer-driven, with honorees nominated by their colleagues. This year, more than 150 nominations were submitted -- a powerful testament to the admiration and respect Monroe employees hold for one another.

"This program is a meaningful opportunity to spotlight the people who help our institution thrive every day and to recognize the incredible work done every day to help students succeed," said Monroe University President Marc Jerome. "We are so proud to celebrate their professionalism, innovation, mentorship, and service."

The 2024 Staff Recognition Award recipients are:

President's Award for Professional Excellence

Recognizes a full-time staff member who goes above and beyond every day to deliver on the University's mission, embrace its values and culture, and has a positive impact on making Monroe a great place to study and work.

Cathy Carbonelli (Career Services)
Roxanna Virgo (Admissions)

Mildred King Innovator Award

Recognizes a full-time staff member who has shown leadership and innovation by identifying a specific need/challenge within the Monroe community and then leading (or helping to lead) the work to find a great solution to it.

Joeane Laurent, M.S. (Residence Life)
Desia Monsanto, M.B.A. (Career Services)

Distinguished Mentor Award

Recognizes a full-time staff member who has demonstrated excellence as a mentor to students and who truly goes the extra mile to connect with their students and help them succeed.

Vannett Coburn (Student Services)

Jeanette Slim (Student Services)

Rising Star Award

Recognizes a full-time staff member (below director level) who has been at the University less than three years and has demonstrated outstanding performance in their role.

Shaquin Cameron (Student Services)

Nicole Campbell (International Admissions)

Shanaelia Gayle (Registrar)

Dennis Racanello (KGS Student Services)

Emilio Wilson-King (Admissions)

Outstanding Merit Award

Recognizes a part-time employee who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to students and the University's mission.

Tara George (Disabilities Services)

John Torres (Athletics)

Outstanding Service Award

Recognizes a Facilities, Public Safety or Transportation staff member who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to students and the University.

Tomas Diaz (Public Safety)

Etta Massaquoi (Facilities)

James Quist (Facilities)

In addition, the administration bestowed the **Monroe Hero Award** on Jessica Pollas, Director of Health and Wellness, for her unwavering commitment to the mental wellness of students.

The University extends heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's honorees, each of whom embodies the spirit of Monroe University through their commitment to excellence, service, and student success.

ABOUT MONROE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1933, New York-based Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management and the Culinary Institute of New York, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroeu.edu>.

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