Student workers are praised for their work

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Student workers at the university were recognized for their contributions during the annual Student Employee Appreciation Day held on April 15 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

The event, scheduled from 10 a.m.–2 p.m., featured activities including crafts, guided paint sessions and complimentary massages along with an awards ceremony at noon.

"I feel like so often, in a small way, we can kind of be the unsung heroes that help keep the university running," music therapy major Lindsey Brown, a junior, said.

Organizers said the event aimed to recognize not only the work students perform but also the skills they develop through employment on campus.

From front desk roles to peer mentoring positions, student employees contribute across departments, helping offices meet demand while gaining professional experience.

"This is our fourth year that we are doing it, and the goal has always been to recognize our student workers for the great work that they do and help them to be valued and appreciated," Rachel Cunningham-Exavier, assistant director for the Office of Career and Professional Development, said.

For many students, campus employment provides more than just financial support. It offers opportunities to build connections and navigate college life, particularly for those adjusting to a new environment or coming from out of state.

"As each year progressed and as I took on new roles, I really just met more and more people," Brown said. "Being a student worker has really helped shape my connections on campus."

Organizers emphasized that student employees often take on responsibilities that extend beyond their job titles.

Whether managing front desks, assisting with tutoring or supporting administrative tasks, their work contributes directly to the university's ability to serve its student body and maintain daily operations.

"It's not just about something that they are doing, but it's something that they're creating," Cunningham-Exavier said. "They help create an environment for the university and give it a good name."

The event also highlighted professional development, with awards recognizing students for leadership, inclusion and overall impact.

Organizers said these recognitions are intended to affirm the value of student contributions and encourage continued growth in both academic and professional settings.

For student workers, the experience of working on campus can also provide flexibility that off-campus jobs may not offer.

With schedules that adapt to academic demands, campus employment allows students to balance responsibilities while gaining relevant experience that prepares them for future careers.

"It allows us employment within an environment that will work around our ever-changing academic schedule," Brown said.

As attendees moved between activity stations and gathered for the awards presentation, the atmosphere reflected the event's purpose: creating a space where student workers felt seen and appreciated.

"I want them to feel loved," Cunningham-Exavier said. "I want them to feel appreciated and to know that what they are doing is something that is great and something that is valued."



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Paint supplies arranged on a table for guided paint sessions during the event.



Interim President Sandra Bulmer speaking during the awards ceremony.

Event creates space for immigrant voices

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Students gathered in Engleman Hall on April 15 for UndocuJourney, an event hosted by the UndocuAlly Student Alliance aimed at sharing the personal experiences of undocumented and mixed-status individuals on campus.

Held from 3–4 p.m. in Room B121, the event created a space for students, faculty and staff to listen to first-hand stories often left out of broader campus conversations.

"We wanted to hear people's personal stories that talked about mixed-status, undocumented immigrants," business administration major Jerimiah Parra, a junior and the president of the UndocuAlly Student Alliance, said.

Unlike advocacy or social events, organizers said the program focused on lived experiences and the realities people face while navigating higher education.

Through open discussion, the event highlighted challenges that undocumented individuals encounter while also addressing common misconceptions.

Organizers said many attendees left with a clearer understanding of issues immigrants face that are often misunderstood or overlooked within both academic and public spaces.

"A lot of people don't really know what they go through," Parra said. "For example, one of the topics that came up was taxes. People think undocumented individuals take from the system, but they learned that they don't even get those benefits back."

The event emphasized education through storytelling, encouraging participants to reflect on how misinformation can shape perceptions.

By creating space for dialogue, organizers aimed to challenge assumptions and promote awareness within the university community.

Planning the event required careful consideration to ensure a safe and supportive environment for those sharing their stories.

Organizers said creating that sense of security was essential given the vulnerability involved in speaking openly about undocumented status and personal experiences.

"We always have to be extra safe and cautious," Parra said. "It takes a lot of courage just to speak up about your story, so we want to make sure people feel comfortable."

To maintain that environment, attendance was limited to members of the university community.

Organizers said this helped ensure that those present approached the discussion with understanding and a willingness to listen.

Beyond raising awareness, the event also aligned with the organization's broader mission of building community and supporting individuals through shared experiences.

"When hearing the actual stories of people, these were our peers, staff and faculty," Parra said. "It really showed what our true mission is about."

Participants engaged in conversations that reflected both the struggles and resilience within undocumented communities.

Organizers said the event not only provided a platform for storytelling but also encouraged solidarity among attendees who may not have previously understood these lived experiences.

At its core, UndocuJourney was designed to foster empathy and understanding by allowing individuals to learn directly from one another.

Organizers expressed that even a single story has the potential to resonate and provide support to others facing similar challenges on campus.

"It's about hearing people's stories, helping uplift one another and building a community," Parra said.

Owls Decide: Netflix or Disney+?

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor







PHOTOS | LILY RAND

"Netflix because they have a lot of great shows."
-Communication major Isabel Herazo, a freshman

"Disney+; I'm a big cartoon guy."
-Social work major Elijah Algarin, a sophomore

"Netflix because there's more genres, more shows."
-Biology major Michael Conley, a junior







"Disney+ because it has more throwback shows."
-Nursing major Sydney Crockett, a junior

"Netflix because it has a great variety of movies and shows. It's also not expensive."
-Elementary education major Zainullah Khan, a sophomore

"I think there is a lot on both. I'm more of a Disney person; there is a lot of variety in there."
-Communication disorders major Jolie Marie Jasmin, a sophomore