



PRESS RELEASE

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Norco College Classified Senate Announces 2019 Classified Professional of the Year

Annual award highlights dedication and hard work of classified professionals

Norco, Ca. – The Norco College Classified Senate announces Ruth Jones-Santos, a Student Success Coach in the Phoenix Scholars Program, as the 2019 Classified Professional of the Year.

“This is the first ever award by the Classified Senate,” said Patti Brusca, Chair of the Classified Professional of the Year Committee. “The Senate believes it is important to recognize classified professionals for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment to students and fellow classified employees.”

Established in 2018, this will be the first award handed out to a classified professional at Norco College. The recipient is nominated by members of the classified professional body and selected by the Classified Professional of the Year Committee of the Classified Senate. The awardee must have demonstrated professionalism, involvement in their community or the college community, teamwork, outstanding commitment to students and their colleagues, and be an inspiration to other classified professionals.

Ruth Jones-Santos has served the Riverside Community College District for over a decade. She is a Norco College former Foster Youth alumni and a former RCCD Student Trustee. Ruth started her journey at Norco College as the Assistance Advisor and College Receptionist for student government and Student Activities office in 2009. In 2013, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant in EOPS/CARE. Ms. Jones-Santos is currently a Student Success Coach for the Phoenix Scholars & EOPS/NextUp Program ensuring that all Norco College former foster youth students have the support and resources they need to reach their personal and educational goals.

Ruth is active on campus, in the Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), and was one of the original members of the Classified Senate. She is a great team player, an inspiration to her fellow classified professionals, and a fierce advocate for students.

Ruth has an Associate’s Degree in Math & Science and Information Systems and is currently working toward attaining her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management on her career path of becoming a counselor/coordinator for an Equity Program. She is a mother of three beautiful children. Ruth is a die-hard Star Wars & Disney fan, loves to karaoke, and enjoys spending time with

friends and family. When she is not serving the Norco College community she is serving the children of inner-city San Bernardino through her church's children ministry.

The Classified Senate is holding a recognition event on Thursday, May 2, 2019 from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Norco College Center for Student Success where Ruth will receive her award.

The Norco College Classified Senate is an employee organization for over 130 classified professionals at Norco College. It serves as the collective voice of classified professionals that provides leadership, advocacy and support for classified professionals as well as actively contributing to the integrity, growth, and success of the college. It was founded in November 2012 as the Classified Representatives Council and voted to become the Classified Senate in June 2013. For more information, please visit www.ncclassifiedsenate.com or <https://www.facebook.com/ncclassifiedsenate/>.

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