

Leadership in Career Development Awards

2013 Nomination Form



(May be an entire organization or individual)

Name / Organization	Cynthia Mika, Career Preparation Specialist, University of Idaho Career Center
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	Idaho Commons 334
City, State, Zip Code	Moscow, ID 83844-2534
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Person Submitting Nomination

Name	Eric Anderson, Manager, Career Advising and Professional Development, University of Idaho Career Center
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Describe the setting where the nominee promotes career development including any organizational goals, groups served and career development services provided (one to two paragraphs):

Cynthia Mika is the Career Preparation Specialist for the University of Idaho Career Center. Cynthia supports and works with students at all Idaho campuses, alumni throughout the state, the NW region and U.S., as well as faculty, staff and the campus community. She is knowledgeable and advises in all areas of major and career exploration, development and decision-making. Cynthia is also responsible for leading and supervising our Peer Advising Intern program at the university.

Cynthia works one-on-one with clients through individual appointments and consultations, assisting with Career Center Drop-In (Walk-In) hours, phone, email and web-based appointments, and classroom and group presentations. She also attends and speaks at local advising and career development symposiums.

Ms. Mika will be retiring this month after over 30 years of service and dedication to the University of Idaho; and we can think of no better way of honoring her, and the impact she has made on the countless number of students and alumni over the years in their career development.

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Describe how the nominee contributes to the field of career development. Include any innovative practices, use of resources, education or advocacy for career development (one to three paragraphs):

Cynthia contributes to the field through her extensive experience with career development, training in career development facilitation, and certifications in career assessments. We also pride Cynthia for promoting the professional development of other career advisors in our office. She always finds time to research career-related topics, share interesting articles, or attend webinars that in turn help make us all better advisors. A career advisor must stay up to date with new employment and hiring trends, economic and labor market outlooks, technology, and best practices in working with clients, and Cynthia is always helping the advising team to learn and grow in the field.

An innovative practice that I find quite helpful is Cynthia makes sure to follow up each summer with the clients she had worked with throughout the academic year to see how they are doing and if the Career Center can help them further. This practice not only helps reinforces the work we do in the Career Center and the support we provide our clients, but it also provides us with both quantitative and qualitative data on our services and placement/employment data information for clients we work with.

Cynthia is also an active member of many career-related LinkedIn groups, always sharing resources with us. More importantly, through her extensive experience in career advising, she always finds time to supports and provides resources for other career development professionals on the site.

Describe how the nominee's contributions are unique, exceptional and have made a fundamental impact on individuals and the community (one to three paragraphs):

Cynthia was instrumental in helping to resurrect, redesign and oversee our Career Advising Peer Intern program at Idaho. Seeing a need for students in our Business Human Resources program to get hands-on experience with career development, and in working with students from all disciplines and backgrounds, she has made the HR students participating in our program even more well-rounded and knowledgeable going into their professional careers.

Most importantly to me, Cynthia's commitment to the field goes beyond the standard Monday-Friday 9-5. Whether it's her lunch break; the various community, philanthropic and service events one can always find her helping at; or even at the weekly farmer's market, Cynthia is always willing to help and support others in their career and professional development. She has a passion for career advising and wears this like a badge of honor wherever she is at.

Walking around campus, everyone knows Cynthia, her warmth, smile and personality, and for the impact she has made on our students and local community. She is one of the most humble people I have ever met, and I can find no better way of saying thank you to a career advisor who has given so much to the field.