



Office of Student Employment

Connecting DePaul students to campus jobs

Nominee Name: *Vanessa Martinez*

Nominator Name: *Dilpreet Kaur*

Nominee Accomplishments

When I started my job in this office, I came in expecting it to be just that just a job. But Vanessa has made this position so much more than just a paycheck for me. She has been there not only as my boss but as a mentor and has used her time and resources to help me develop professionally and personally. She has been extremely transparent and vulnerable to the point where she has shared even her personal experiences to help me further develop as a professional and as a leader. Recently, she has taken out time personally to help me with developing my resume one on one and making sure that I understand the value of my work and experiences.

In my time within this office, I have been a part of multiple different programs and worked in two different positions. The best experience I had with a supervisor was working under Vanessa. Working with Vanessa has taught me so much about the DePaul Community and even just mechanical things such as how to work through different programs or offices in order to set up events and obtain resources.

Beyond all of the knowledge about DePaul that she has bestowed upon me my favorite part of working with her is the way she treats her employees. Vanessa has never made me feel like she's my superior instead she truly believes that we are all constantly learning from one another and that we are all peers. For me, someone who typically works in corporate environments, it was very unusual but heartwarming to see this dynamic. It is comforting to go into a workplace setting and be able to say that "I don't know XYZ please help me" and not have to feel patronized about asking for help.

Vanessa has been more than just a supervisor to me she has honestly turned into one of my closest mentors. She makes sure that she checks in with me both to make sure I am able to handle my workload and excel in my academic and professional careers outside of DePaul. She makes it a point to ensure that I include aspects of self-care and prioritize my out-of-work responsibilities which I often neglect for myself because of school and being overwhelmed by external factors in life. I think this is extremely important and it goes a long way because a lot of times especially in such a busy office such as OMSS it is easy to forget how overwhelmed we can get but she makes sure is that we are succeeding in our personal capacities before focusing on work.

Vanessa has taught me more about communication and collaborative skills than I have been able to learn in any other job or position I have held here at DePaul. She has taught me the value of my words

not only in how I use them with others but also in how I use them to define myself. We are students often undervalue ourselves and don't see the greater picture of all the work that we do but Vanessa makes sure that your work is recognized, and she always communicates to you how valuable of an asset you are to the team.

Finally, there has been an abundance of changes within the Office of Multicultural Student Success and Vanessa has been the sole rock within the community that she serves as well as the office itself. She makes sure to focus on the culture we developed in the office and to extend that out to the DePaul community as well. She has been amazing at taking on the most difficult of challenges and executing them in the most graceful way possible such as when she worked to put together the president's diversity brunch in the short time span that she was given. One of the things that I respect and value the most is Vanessa's dedication to students. There have been countless amounts of times that either myself or other students have had some sort of breakdown or crisis and Vanessa will literally drop everything and make sure we are taken care of and heard. It doesn't matter how long it takes or what time it is she will always prioritize her students above all else.

Vanessa truly lives and serves the DePaul community in the way that we preach we should. She lives out our mission and puts it into action.