

Year End Review

STAFF COUNCIL
♦
Cal State Channel Islands



Photo Credit: Communication & Public Relations

By Staff, For Staff - A Year in Review

CI Staff Council is a campus organization run *by staff for staff*. We advocate on behalf of staff on issues relating to campus culture and morale, work to improve campus communication, and participate in shared campus decision-making on topics outside of collective bargaining.

We plan and sponsor events, provide networking and leadership opportunities, facilitate staff representatives on campus committees, celebrate staff awards and recognitions, and organize community service projects.

Our efforts to improve the staff experience at CI, and build a strong foundation for the work we do to support students, is always growing. This report includes an overview of the activities we've engaged in during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, including fundraisers, community engagement, and shared governance.

We are excited to showcase the hard work of our officers and division representatives in supporting and advocating for their peers at Cal State Channel Islands and we look forward to continuing these efforts in the years to come.

In this report
you can expect:

A Message from
the Chair

Financial Report

Goals

Representation

Awards &
Recognitions

Community
Service &
Outreach

2026 Ventura
Corporate Games



Campus Community Member Signatures on the 'Steel' in Gateway Hall
Photo Credit: Rebecca Slocum

2 | A Message from the Chair

As Staff Council Chair, I am excited to share the Year End Review report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 with all of you. One of my favorite parts of serving as Chair is bearing witness to the excellence of my colleagues - this report provides an incredible opportunity to look back and reflect on all of the ways Staff Council members have gone above and beyond to advocate, to celebrate, to challenge, and to serve their colleagues at Cal State Channel Islands.

FY 2025-2026 represents a unique chapter in the history of CI, and of Staff Council. Leadership changes and financial challenges have made our mission trickier to achieve than in years past, but if there's one thing I have learned in my time as Staff Council Chair, it is that CI staff should never be underestimated.

In this year, Staff Council has expanded the number of staff representatives on campus committees, launched new fundraising initiatives, hosted new campus events, and created new awards for staff to highlight all of the brilliant ways you have shown up for each other despite all of the adversity our campus and our communities have faced during the last 12 months.

2026 also marks Staff Council's 10th year of operation at CI - 10 years of progress and growth for staff in the spheres of recognition and shared governance. The inclusion of staff voices in decision-making and administrator hiring, and the continued efforts to ensure transparency and accountability from leadership are the work of 10 years and dozens of dedicated Staff Council officers and representatives.

To all current and former Staff Council members, on behalf of all staff at CI, I thank you. Your efforts built and shaped this community into what it is today, and to share in this legacy is the honor of my career. Your innovation and dedication should be the envy of every CSU campus.

Congratulations on 10 years - I can't wait to see what Staff Council can do with the next 10.

Sincerely,
Rebecca



Rebecca Slocum
Staff Council Chair 2024-2026



Photo Credit: Rebecca Slocum

3 | Year End Financial Report

CI Staff Council is fully self-funded - any funds we have available to spend on morale events, contest prizes, awards and recognitions, or supplies is fundraised throughout the year.

July 1, 2025 *Beginning Balance: **\$2,527.70**
June 30, 2026, *Ending Balance: **\$2,229.30**

**Due to processing, some expenses from FY 24-25 carried over into FY 25-26; some expenses are expected to carry over into FY 26-27.*



Pictured (Left to Right): Jodi Kautz, Rebecca Slocum
Photo Credit: Anthony Plascencia

Fundraisers

Staff Council raised a total of **\$893.04** across five fundraisers during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

- **\$158.18** from Regal Cinemas
- **\$97.30** from See's Candy
- **\$484.00** from Valentine's Day Candygrams
- **\$106.12** from the Arts & Sciences STEAM Carnival
- **\$20.00** from individual donations



Pictured: Rachel Danielson
Photo Credit: Rebecca Slocum

Expenses

Staff Council spent a total of **\$1,191.44** during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

- **\$513.17** for events, including refreshments, printing costs, and other supplies
- **\$85.98** for recognition awards
- **\$300** for Canva Pro annual subscription
- **\$40.10** for Foundation account related fees



Photo Credit: Clarissa Gaeta

4 | Goals & Accomplishments

At the beginning of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, CI Staff Council established five goals:

- Pursue resumption of signature campus community events
- Continue advocacy on behalf of staff and increase participation in shared governance
- Increase and promote opportunities for staff professional development
- Increase fundraising to support the expansion of morale events for staff
- Increase opportunities for staff recognition and awards

Where did we land on these goals?

- We launched two new annual events, the **Halloween Boo Bash** staff social and the **Valentine's Day Candygrams**; we also participated in the **2025 Homecoming Golf Cart Parade** for the first time and organized the **Homecoming Door Decorating Contest** in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs.



Kimberly Williams
2026 Rookie of the Year Superlative Recipient
Photo Credit: Rachel Danielson

- Having successfully negotiated for additional representative seats on Academic Senate standing committees during AY24-25, Staff Council supported even more staff in key campus decision-making spaces in AY25-26, including the **Academic Planning & Policy Committee (APPC)** and the **Appointments, Elections, and Bylaws Committee (AEB)**; we also launched a VP Q&A series for staff, inviting division Vice Presidents to an informal 30-minute Q&A session at the end of our monthly general meetings.
- We partnered with the **Office of Institutional Research and Teaching & Learning Innovations (TLI)** to bring targeted training and data demonstrations directly to staff, and we will continue to grow these opportunities in the new FY.
- We piloted two additional fundraisers during this FY: the Valentine's Day Candygrams and our concessions at the Arts & Sciences STEAM Carnival, which brought in nearly **\$600** in revenue, representing major gains in fundraising we hope to continue in future years.
- In addition to awarding the 2nd annual Tollefson Staff Champion Award, we launched the Staff Council Superlatives and recognized **12** staff, voted by their colleagues as the best in 10 categories (plus two write-in submissions).

Additionally, the Executive Board collaborated with campus leadership to renew the End-of-Year Campus BBQ and advocated for the development of a procedure for the campus community to respond to the passing of current and former employees.



Pictured (Left to Right): Christina Sotelo, Ariana Wilroy, Rebecca Slocum, Jodi Kautz
Photo Credit: Communication & Public Relations

5 | Representation

CI Staff Council is made up of elected or appointed representatives from all five campus divisions, plus staff volunteers and ex-officio members.
For Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

- Academic Affairs - **4**
- Business & Financial Affairs - **5**
- Student Affairs - **3**
- Office of the President - **1**
- University Advancement - **1**

Ex-Officio Members of Staff Council during Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

- Annie Block-Weiss, *Former Staff Council Chair*
- Christina Smith, *Academic Senate Chair*
- Emily Conde, *ASI Student Government President*
- Sue Andrzejewski, *Interim University President*
- Christ Scholl, *Non Tenure Track Faculty Council Co-Chair*

2025-2026 Staff Council Officers & Representatives



Rebecca Slocum
Chair



Sean Kramer
Vice Chair



Rachel Danielson
Secretary



Colleen Haws
Treasurer

Division	Representatives				
DAA	Riley Crain	Lori Myers	Marisa Ortega	Ariana Wilroy	
DBFA	Melissa Bergem	Teresa Montoya-Morua	Christina Sotelo	vacant	vacant
DSA	Clarissa Gaeta	Beyrin Hernandez	Jodi Kautz		
OTP	vacant				
DUA	Michelle Dietz				

6 | Awards & Recognitions



Joanna Rivas
2026 Best Desk Decorator Superlative Recipient
Photo Credit: Rachel Danielson



Jennifer Raymond
2026 Fong Award Recipient
Photo Credit: CSU Chancellor's Office

Staff Council Awards

Staff Council is committed to expanding its program of staff-centered awards and recognitions.

During the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year:

- We honored the Director of Institutional Research **Matt Zivot** with the **2026 Tollefson Staff Champion Award**, which celebrates administrators who go above and beyond to support, defend, and mentor staff colleagues across campus.
- We launched the **Staff Council Superlatives** to an overwhelmingly positive response - Staff Council received **135** submissions for the 2026 Staff Council Superlatives, from **36** nominators, highlighting a total of **96** individual staff. Narrowing down these nominees to **12** individual superlative recipients was a challenge, but CI staff stepped up - we received **116** submissions in the voting survey between May 26 and 27. Way to go!
- We received **11** Staff Spotlight submissions for the *In The Loop* newsletter.

Recognizing CSU Staff Excellence

Several new awards have (or will soon be) launched to recognize the unique accomplishments of staff at CI.

The CSU System launched the Trustee Wenda Fong & Mr. Daniel Fetterly Staff Awards this year, awarding three individual staff and one staff team from across all 22 campuses. Staff Council supported the nomination process for CI, receiving **22** nominations for staff and staff teams across campus. The Executive Board then reviewed the submissions before sharing finalists with the Office of the President, who made the final decisions for which staff would be submitted from CI for each category.

We are thrilled that CI's own Jennifer Raymond, Community Partner Lead for the Center for Community Engagement, was selected as one of the inaugural winners by the Board of Trustees, in the First Generation Belonging & Inclusion category.



Courtney Gross
2026 Commencement Bell Ringer
Afternoon Ceremony
Photo Credit: Communication & Public Relations

Also new this year, the Staff Council representatives from the Division of Academic Affairs were tasked by the Provost with developing staff awards for the division to launch this upcoming AY. The two awards they created - **The Pathfinder** and **Beyond The Call** - will open for nominations this summer, with the inaugural awardees to be recognized at the division AY kick-off event in August.

We look forward to building even more opportunities to recognize staff excellence in the coming year.

7 | Community Service & Outreach



Teresa Montoya-Morua
Photo Credit: Rachel Danielson

Connection

CSUCI Staff Council continued to strengthen connection with the surrounding community through service initiatives, including participation in the Ventura Corporate Games service project. These opportunities allowed Staff Council members to collaborate with organizations across Ventura County while demonstrating the University's commitment to service and community engagement. Looking ahead, Staff Council aims to expand its presence throughout the county by increasing participation in local events, volunteer opportunities, and partnerships that support the communities we serve.



School Supply Drive

We continued to partner with Basic Needs to provide school supplies to the Dolphin Guardian Scholars at the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester, supporting **50** students.



In the Loop

12 issues of the *In The Loop* newsletter were published during the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, bringing the total published editions to **71**.

Newly added during FY25-26, *In The Loop* now features a Pet Gazette, highlighting the furry, feathered, and scaly members of staff families. The Pet Gazette received **42** adorable submissions in its inaugural year, and we look forward to many more in years to come.

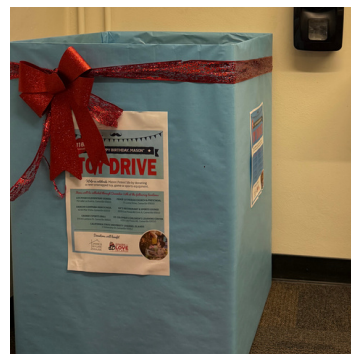


Photo Credit: Colleen Haws

Holiday Drives

We successfully organized two separate holiday drives in December 2025:

- A gift drive in partnership with the "Happy Birthday, Mason" annual holiday toy drive
- A wrapping paper drive for Dolphins with Dependents



Staff Council Ferry

The Staff Council Ferry, a weekly listserv digest, launched in August 2024.

Staff Council published **50** issues of the Ferry during FY 2025-2026, reaching **130** total subscribers.

8 | 2026 Ventura Corporate Games



Crista Fisher
Action Shot Photo Silver Medal Winner
Photo Credit: Beyrin Hernandez

Summary

Staff Council organized CI's **11th** year of participation in the Ventura Corporate Games and **71** staff, faculty, administrators, and student assistants represented Team Channel Islands.

CI fielded **35** total teams across **23** events.

CI won **two** bronze medals, **one** silver medal, **two** gold medals during the 2026 Games, including multiple medals in the Photo Contest. The winning photos are credited to Beyrin Hernandez, Rachel Danielson, and Noah Zerbe (unaffiliated).



Jingle Mitchell
Community Service Photo Bronze Medal Winner
Photo Credit: Rachel Danielson

Community Service Project

Rachel Danielson won **Bronze** in the Photo Contest, Community Service Project category, for this photo from the 2026 Community Service Project, where we picked over 2500 pounds of avocados with Food Forward for local food pantries.



T-Shirt Design

The 2026 Ventura Corporate Games t-shirt design for Team Channel Islands was developed by Tessa Blanek and Janely Quijas, two student assistants and art majors graduating Spring 2026. The design won **Gold** in the T-Shirt Design Contest!



Kevin Cruz
Photo Credit: Kevin Cruz

Billiards - 9-Ball

Kevin Cruz won **Gold** in the 9-Ball Billiards event!



Pictured Top (Left to Right):
Jeanne Grier, Rebecca Slocum,
Kevin Amaya, Julian Larios,
Robert Felix;

Pictured Bottom (Left to Right):
Jodi Kautz, Rachel Danielson
Group Spirit Photo Bronze Medal Winner
Photo Credit: Noah Zerbe

Axe Throwing

Noah Zerbe, spouse of Jeanne Grier, won **Bronze** in the Photo Contest, Group Spirit category, for this photo of the 2026 Axe Throwing teams.



Sue Andrzejewski
Photo Credit: Alex Padilla



Pictured (Left to Right): Ritchie LeRoy, Michelle Hasendonckx, Jodi Kautz, Amber-Marie Madrid, Rebecca Slocum, Rachel Danielson, Riley Crain, Melissa Bergem
Photo Credit: Eric Danielson

9 | Summary

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 presented unique challenges for both CI and Staff Council, including leadership transitions and financial constraints, yet staff across campus continued to demonstrate remarkable resilience, innovation, and commitment to one another. As we celebrate Staff Council's 10th anniversary, this report reflects a decade of progress in staff recognition, shared governance, transparency, and advocacy.

Staff Council's priorities during FY 2025-2026 reflect the needs of CI staff right now: rebuilding community, expanding professional development, increasing staff inclusion in shared governance, and improving morale and recognition of staff contributions across campus. While we take the time to celebrate our successes, we are committed to continuing the necessary work to uplift staff in these key ways in coming years.

This year's achievements reflect the dedication of current and former Staff Council members whose service has helped shape a stronger, more connected campus community. As we celebrate 10 years of Staff Council, we look forward to continuing this work and building on this legacy in the years ahead.

Thanks for another great year!

CI STAFF COUNCIL	CI.STAFFCOUNCIL@CSUCI.EDU
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