



Undeb Myfyrwyr
Prifysgol De Cymru
University of South Wales
Students' Union



Gwobrau Dewis Y Myfyrwyr 2024

Student Choice Awards 2024



Croeso!

Welcome to the annual USWSU Student Choice Awards! We're super excited to open the doors and welcome you into the Students' Union, to celebrate the outstanding work of the USW community.

This year, we received over 1,300 nominations which shows how incredible our students and USW staff are. It truly is an honour for us to be able to hold the SCAs each year, and we love seeing everyone recognised for their commitment to making the USW experience, the best it can be.

We hope that you enjoy your night and we'd love to see you pictures! Tag us across social media with @uswsu and use the hashtag #SCAS2024!



ORDER OF *events*





OPENING REMARKS

BEST LECTURER

presented by

MOST INSPIRATIONAL APPRENTICE

presented by Rebecca Prout

BEST SUPERVISOR

presented by Cheryl Chingosho

STUDENT REP OF THE YEAR

presented by

INTERVAL

Music by Esme Thomas

BEST COURSE LEADER

presented by

OUTSTANDING STUDENT SUPPORT

presented by

OPERATIONAL POLICING IMPACT AWARD

presented by

STAFF AWARD FOR STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

presented by

MOST INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT

presented by

STUDENT UNION STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

presented by

CLOSING REMARKS



The Student Choice Awards

We've been holding the Student Choice Awards for over a decade and each year, we're blown away by the volume & quality of nominations.

The academic year can be challenging which is why we're honoured to be able to give back to the USW community. The SCA's are all about sharing the love and celebrating our successes, achievements and the outstanding work that often goes unnoticed.

We received over 1,300 nominations this year, giving our judging panel the near impossible task of selecting a winner!

There are six staff awards (including the inaugural SU Staff Member of the Year award) and six student awards up for grabs this evening.

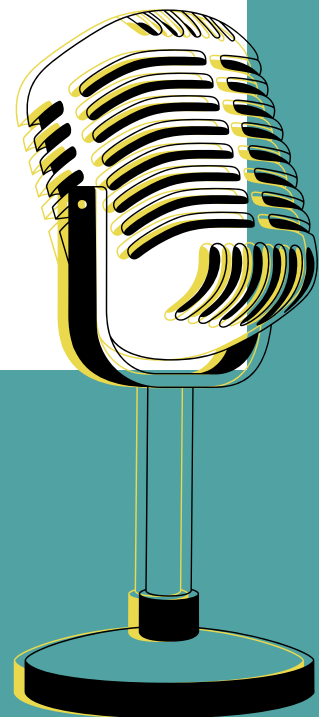




Esme Thomas

Esme Thomas is a 22 year old Indie Artist from Oxfordshire, currently studying a Masters in Songwriting and Music Production here at the University of South Wales. Esme started as a vocalist and developed her sound through her undergraduate degree at the University of Liverpool as well as being in bands and songwriting from a young age. She is now ready to build a career off of her passion for music. Esme also has a love of poetry and literature, which she uses to enhance her songwriting - her upcoming album explores female relationships within families.

You can follow Esme's journey via her instagram (@esme.thomas) and Spotify (Esme Thomas).



BEST LECTURER

The Best Lecturer Award is open to any teaching staff across University of South Wales. This award aims to celebrate individuals who are able to bring topics to life, supported their students and gone above and beyond to support their students & ensure they have the best possible learning experience.

The Best Lecturer Award is split into faculty awards – allowing three individuals to win! The winners from each faculty are then eligible for the ‘Winner of Winners Best Lecturer Award’.

Past Winners:

2023

Jessica Emanuel (FBCI)

Hannah Seale (FCES)

Tom Owens (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Tom Owens

2022

Hannah Coburn (FBCI)

Hannah Minton (FCES)

Stacey Rees (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Hannah Coburn

2021

Dann Rees (FBCI)

Gareth Davies (FCES)

Mark James (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Dann Rees

2020

Lisa Curtis (FBS)

Matthew Gough (FCI)

Lewis Fall (FCES)

Steve Waldren (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Lewis Fall

Omoboyede Alalabiaye

"He's my best lecturer and very attentive to students, ensures that students grab enough information concerning his course and attends to problems immediately."

"Dr omoboyede is an exceptional lecturer who has made a significant impact on both students and the academic community"

"He's my best lecturer and very attentive to students, ensures that students grab enough information concerning his course and attends to problems immediately."

"For his excellent teaching, good listening ears, makes the class enjoyable by carrying everyone along and friendly."

Kevin Mills

"Kevin has been a great lecture to me throughout my academic year. I've have him for multiple classes and he always helps give feedback and advice. His lessons are fun and interesting and I've loved having him this year."

"I have Kevin Mills in many of my subjects this year and he is always there to give great feedback and advice. Kevin has helped me to write great poems and his confidence and subject knowledge has really helped me to understand more about poetry than I previously did this year. Using the knowledge that Kevin has given me I was able to use this and apply it to my critical response to the poetry assignment that was tasked to us by Alice Entwistle."

Hannah Coburn

"Hannah has been my rock from the day I started university. This year I have had one of the most challenging years yet and Hannah has been by my side since. The unconditional support and guidance she has given me is unbelievable. Words cannot thank her enough so in return, I want to nominate Hannah as I know it's something that will really make her day!"

"Hannah goes above and beyond the expectations of a lecturer standing up for those students who need a hand to hold and allows us to have a voice."

"She is the one of the few people who I can say is someone who genuinely cares for her students and is a hero at USW I wish there were more people like Hannah"

Lyn Evans

"Lyn is the most dedicated lecturer I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Not only did he give me the confidence and reassurance to pursue the course, he has dedicated time and effort into nurturing and supporting the learning and wellbeing of every student under his care."

"His lessons are in depth, well comprised and gives ample opportunity for discussion and the sharing of each individual's knowledge."

"He has a passion for his subject and endless time for his students."

"I have learnt so much in his lessons and have grown in confidence because of it. His individual support in the classroom to each of us as well as getting in contact if he feels support may be needed has been touching."

"Lyn thoroughly deserves this award and highest praise. His dedication even extends to running volunteer sessions for students in his free time and is constantly finding new and interesting connections with outside organisations for us to have a wide variety of connections and skills."

I only hope I can pass on and encourage the passion for the subject and people that he has past my graduation. Lyn sets a very high standard when it comes to teaching, particularly his passion for the subject and his ability to include all students. His caring nature and ability to explain things is impressive. He goes above and beyond the duties of a lecturer, ensuring equality for all his students. He is not only a great lecturer but an inspirational human being and I have thoroughly enjoyed being taught by him over the past two years whilst I've studied for my HND in Conservation Management. I have studied at Cardiff University and the Open University and he is by far the best lecturer/tutor I have ever had. If ever there was a more deserving person for this award, Lyn Evans is it."

Richard Grant

"This couldn't have been an easier decision! Richie has been my lecturer for M7 - Maintenance Practices and M15 - Gas Turbines. I have enjoyed every second of his lectures and I'm gutted there'll be no more after 5th June. His understanding of each and every system on Aircraft, is truly astonishing and he's an absolute inspiration for my career that lies ahead. No matter how complex or confusing something would seem at first light, he always found a way to simplify it perfectly and explain how it relates to other sections of the aircraft that have been covered in previous weeks. His comical humour and numerous amount of stories from his time working on Boeing and Military Aircraft is what makes his lectures so enjoyable and compelling. Going above and beyond is second nature to him and he's forever saying he's got all the time in the world for questions and this is true. There was one occasion where he spent 4 hours labelling this one diagram for me, which I then printed off in A1 and stuck to my wall. This just goes to show how much he genuinely cares for the success and understanding of future aircraft engineers. I cannot praise Richie enough, he's been outstanding from start to finish and I'm extremely thankful for everything he has done for me."

"Very kind lecturer who is happy to help explain something that you don't understand. he brings light-heartedness and humour to topics that are quite uninteresting and makes them enjoyable. he is a lecturer that provides a space in which you wouldn't want to miss a lecture and he also provides the space in which to talk about things that trouble you whether they are subject related or otherwise."

"Explains concepts well and keeps the classes very interesting and engaging"

"Teach techniques and connection with the students"

"Understanding, funny, patience"

Lewis Fall

"Lewis has gone above and beyond as a lecturer. I really enjoy Lewis' teaching style. His content is always engaging with his explanations for topics being very unique but also very effective - making complicated material a lot easier to understand. Lewis is very personable and can't do enough to help students. He has been a massive help for me academically and regarding personal circumstances, which I very much appreciate."

"Goes above and beyond to get the learning material across. He does everything possible to make class fun in a way where we will remember the work."

"He's the best!"

"Lewis is excellent at breaking explanations down in a way that really engages the students and for those that don't learn the normal way, he is passionate and enjoys his subject. He is relatable and approachable when i needed it. Amazing lecturer."

"Whether it's providing the most extensive depth in content material or encouraging ambition in academic pursuits, no lecturer continues to inspire better than this lecturer."

"Whether it's providing the most extensive depth in content material or encouraging ambition in academic pursuits, no lecturer continues to inspire better than this lecturer. Even as PAC, he provided Academic Support with patience and consistency, according to individual goals and pace."

"Amazing at explaining complicated and abstract concepts so that they're more digestible. Always makes his lectures enjoyable and informative."

"Teaches very well, explains harder concepts as many times and make lessons fun, can talk to him about anything"

"Lewis is literally one of the most caring understanding human being. He's been great help and the way he teaches is understandable to all students"

"Most engaging during lecture making even more boring topics interesting and always happy to help outside of lectures with any problems"

Rezbi Duffield

“ Rezbi utilises innovative and effective teaching methods that cater to different learning styles, making the subject matter engaging and accessible to all students. This could involve incorporating technology, interactive activities, real-world examples, and personalized approaches to learning. Most notably is her ability to weave her own intersectionality to her police officer class seeing 25 police officers dancing to bhangra. Her subtle use of her Bangladeshi birthplace to gently coach whilst providing a fun and engaging activity is what makes Rez stand out! Any of Rez’ sessions will go beyond the core subject matter and include exposing the next generation of police officers to a world outside of an organisational culture of traditional policing.

Rez demonstrates a strong commitment to her learners going beyond the conventional methods by providing lived experience for students from ethnically diverse backgrounds, understanding their unique needs, strengths, and weaknesses. This fosters an environment where students feel supported and motivated to excel. A face at the front of the class who has had a similar journey to them.

Rez dedication and inclusive teaching practices are reflected in the measurable progress and success of their students from ethnic minorities. Students feel inspired by her story, her dedication, and her knowledge for policing. She was born in Bangladesh arriving in Birmingham at only one with her single mother and six sisters, she forged a career in primary education before embracing the world of adult learning and the culture of policing.

Rez not only excels in their own teaching but also serve as an inspiration and mentor for others. She willingly shares their successful methods, encourage collaboration, and provide guidance to colleagues to improve overall teaching practices. She is makes herself to all diverse students across the Southwest and Wales within the provision.

In summary, Rezbi is deserving award nominee and showcases a combination of innovative teaching methods, inspirational inclusion, personalised support for learners, measurable impact, and she has proven her ability to inspire and guide other educators to enhance their teaching practices.”

Lynda Milton

“Lynda is the most passionate and supportive lecturer I have come across. She truly believes in her students and always encourages them to do their best. I will miss her after this academic year and course finishes.”

“Lynda has been an outstanding lecturer and has provided phenomenal support to me during my third year. The content of her lectures are always interesting and of the highest standard. Lynda has made me realise I will be sad to leave USW.”

“Lynda’s passion for breaking the negative culture that can be found within some ahead of midwifery is breath-taking. After each lecture with Lynda she leaves me questioning more and looking up ways to change my future practise for the better. She gives empathy, compassion and constructive feedback in order to make us the best that we can be and I will forever be grateful for the support she has given me since she walked into my first year summative grading. When I was struggling with my mental and physical health Lynda was the only lecturer that checked in on me and even referred me to support services, all of which completely changed my situation. She ensures that amendments are made for my auditory processing disorder, such as uploading the materials for future lectures early so I can adapt them to better suit my needs and she always pushes me to develop my academics as she knows this is where my weakness lies. Thank you for everything you do for myself, our cohort and our degree Lynda, and I for one will miss you come September when I qualify.”

Lisa Pettinger

Lisa's sessions are always engaging, informative which demonstrates her passion for teaching and psychology. I have found these classes have inspired my academic writing and have encouraged me to think deeper about my practice. Lisa's teaching style is inclusive and she clearly demonstrates how we too can develop our teaching and learning strategies to promote differentiated learning and inclusivity. Lisa has been an inspiration right from the start of the course, she has given imparted wisdom and teaching style during the lessons She has ensured that her lessons are broken down and engaged all within the class. It is with great pleasure that I nominate Lisa Pettinger for recognition of her outstanding contributions as our PGCE lecturer. Over the past two years, Lisa has consistently demonstrated exemplary dedication, expertise, and genuine care for her students, embodying the qualities of an exceptional educator.

As our PGCE lecturer, Lisa has been the guiding force behind our academic journey, delivering modules that are not only informative but also exceptionally clear, structured, engaging, and motivating. Her teaching style seamlessly combines theory with practical applications, ensuring that every session is both stimulating and relevant to our future roles as educators.

One of Lisa's most admirable qualities is her unwavering positivity and encouragement. As an observer of lessons, she creates a supportive and non-judgmental environment, instantly putting the person being observed at ease. Her constructive feedback is delivered with tact and kindness, always focusing on areas for growth while highlighting strengths. This approach fosters a culture of continuous improvement and empowers us to strive for excellence in our practice.

Beyond her role as a lecturer, Lisa has also served as a pillar of support for her students. She goes above and beyond to be a listening ear, offering guidance and reassurance during moments of doubt or uncertainty. Whether it's academic concerns or personal challenges, Lisa approaches every conversation with empathy and understanding. Her genuine care for our well-being extends beyond the classroom.

One of Lisa's greatest strengths lies in her ability to inspire confidence in her learners. She has a remarkable knack for recognising potential, even when we ourselves may doubt our abilities. Through her encouragement and belief in our capabilities, she installs in us the confidence to tackle challenges head-on and strive for excellence.

In summary, Lisa Pettinger is more than just a lecturer; she is a mentor, a guide, and a source of inspiration for all who have had the privilege of learning from her. Her commitment to excellence, genuine care for her students, and unwavering positivity make her truly deserving of recognition. Every lesson with Lisa is engaging and informative - Nothing is ever too much trouble, especially if requests are made to go over areas in more detail if required. Lisa's passion for teaching and subject knowledge makes each lesson enjoyable from start to finish. Lisa has been an exemplary lecturer teaching PGCE. Student teachers need to be taught by the best of the best, and she has fulfilled this role entirely. Throughout the 2 years, Lisa has demonstrated effective teaching methods clearly giving learners structured guidance and feedback to improve and empower us to teach to the highest standard. She has an intuition of what support students need at any time, be it a structure on a board or a sounding board. She always asks if there is anything we would like to know more about, responding to requests in the next lesson about our needs, remaining flexible.

Where there have been issues with other units or workload, she has supported us to reflect on the concerns as a group and individually within written journals.

For me in particular, I was having difficulties within a new teaching role and within observation feedback, she took the time to listen to my concerns and offer the clearest support: she put the pen down and listened. She then offered support, guidance and reassurance of how to overcome these problems.

She is also extremely personable, being able to share her own experiences to reassure learners that it is okay to be human, and learn and develop from mistakes. Lisa has empathy when teaching, she explains and, scaffold's learning extremely well. I understand and have been able to excel within the PGCE because of her. She gives motivational feedback which has helped me build confidence and improve my session planning. I am very grateful to her and how much she has helped me. I have always had a hard time in education and Lisa has shown me how a teaching figure should be, she goes above and beyond to differentiate for every learner in our group and is always on hands and prepared to help beyond her role. I hope I can be half the teacher she has been in my 2 years of study. It is clear to see that Lisa is approachable and knowledgeable due to her smooth delivery of information. Sharing knowledge and teaching in classes, structured in the way she would like to see qualified teaching staff would. Her positive attitude to questions on theorists is inspiring. Lisa's feedback in observations and on assignments are valuable and concise.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL APPRENTICE

This award is open to apprentices who have gone above and beyond in their work, personal lives or have achieved something truly inspiring.

Shortlisted Nominees:

Samuel Corder

Sam strives for academic excellence and consistently achieves 1st class outcomes in his assignments. This however does not come without effort on his part, he is diligent, studious and meticulous. He demonstrates extra mile behaviour within his studies, going above and beyond to complete wider reading, making evidence based arguments utilising critical thinking. Within his work he produces his own conceptual frameworks to demonstrate how problems can be solved, putting theory into practice. Within his policing career he is also inspirational, he started as a PCSO before joining as a constable. Within his 3rd year he was able successfully pass the recruitment to join the force Child Exploitation Team and I know has already been his knowledge into practice, professionally challenges procedure and policy with regards to the management of investigation. He is supportive of his peers who I know look to him for guidance due to his levels of knowledge. He is balancing all of this alongside an extremely busy personal life. Sam is a true inspiration, we are so proud of him and his achievements. He is the epitome of everything that this programme embodies and seeks to achieve in professionalising policing. He is a credit to the force and to the programme.

Erin Rostock

Erin started off her 3 year Police Degree as a very shy and under confident individual. Through sheer hard work and determination she has blossomed into a confident person who is passionate about supporting fellow officers with their wellbeing. Erin produced an outstanding Dissertation on "Mental Health and psychological consequences of their work and effectiveness of support available". This clearly demonstrated her extensive knowledge, compassion and willingness to educate and care about her colleagues. Erin gave one of the best EPA3 presentation I have experienced in three years of conducting this process and she has continued to research her topic and is seeking to continue her journey with developing an educational package/video that can be used for new joiners and for officers who have been serving their communities for any given length of time. I believe Erin deserves recognition as she demonstrates the true pure spirit of compassion and pushing past her own inhibitions for the good of others.

Hannah has been an asset to Rotherham United Community Trust both as a student and an employee. She has worked with determination and passion to achieve excellent results in all aspects of the course. She is a pleasant and friendly individual who has a unique ability to work hard and succeed in all that she does. She has put herself forward on various occasions to support other students. This is evident through her decision to become a female representative on the Female Development Programme.

Through her journey on the USW Sports Coaching Degree Hannah showed examples of leadership and ownership which saw her become a member of staff within the Education department working at Parkgate with our alternative provision programme. This added responsibility didn't seem to hinder Hannah's academic studies with grades continuing to be consistent and of excellent quality.

Hannah forged a strong relationship with both male and female members of staff whilst on the alternative provision programme seeking support and advice when required. She conducted her work with pride and was regularly going above and beyond in order to ensure that the learners had the best possible experience whilst on site. This could be making displays, resources or generally supporting the young person with Maths, English and PSHE as well as any issues that they may have had with some young specifically asking for Hannah's help.

Hannah was also awarded 'The Academia Award for the Sports Coaching Degree.'

Hannah has held a position within the FA Leadership Academy which is designed to develop people as leaders, in order to plan, deliver and develop a project to impact the football community and the wider football community. Due to her own experiences she focused her project on developing females and female footballers, giving them a sense of belonging in football, as well as producing and recognising talent. This all came to life during the Women's Euros in 2022 where she played a leading role in the coordination and delivery of a range of initiatives across the various host locations. Hannah has won various awards at Rotherham Community Trust for her volunteering and academic achievements and was nominated for a Community Achievement Award in Rotherham. The award recognises someone in Rotherham aged under 25, who has made an outstanding contribution to people and communities in Rotherham in a voluntary capacity.

To summarise I believe Hannah's greatest achievement has been achieving such high grades on her course alongside various other commitments. Working full-time hours, coaching a grassroots football team and taking on the role of a female representative has not prevented Hannah achieving outstanding results, which has allowed to her to recently secure full-time employment in a local primary school.

BEST SUPERVISOR

The Best Supervisor Award is open to staff members who have provided student with supervision during a research project such as a Dissertation or a Thesis. The Best Supervisor's are those who go above any beyond whilst supporting their students.

The Best Supervisor Award is split into faculty awards - allowing three individuals to win! The winners from each faculty are then eligible for the 'Winner of Winners Best Supervisor Award'.

Past Winners:

2023

Diana Wallace and Marta Minier (FBCI)
Michael Morse (FCES)
Stacey Rees (FLSE)

Winner of Winners - Michael Morse

2022

Emily Underwood-Lee (FBCI)
Ian Wilson (FCES)
Ann-Marie Coll (FLSE)

Winner of Winners - Emily Underwood-Lee

2021

Rachel Lock-Lewis (FBCI)
Cerith Jones (FCES)
Kathryn Price (FLSE)

Winner of Winners - Kathryn Price

2020

Andy Croll (FBS)
Louis Gray (FCI)
Cerith Jones (FCES)
Ali Coles (FLSE)

Winner of Winners - Cerith Jones

SHORTLISTED NOMINEES

Faculty of Business and Creative Industries

Andy Croll

For always responding quickly to panicked emails! For consistently being encouraging and supportive of the path unfolding during my dissertation. Thank you for helping me navigate, problematise and understand the dissertation process and turning it into a journey which I have (most of the time...) enjoyed!

Elizabeth Lloyd-Parkes

Where do I start??? Lizzie is by far the best supervisor I have had in all of my academic career. Her knowledge is outstanding, only matched by her commitment and enthusiasm to her students. Always finding some way of getting our research out into the world (very successfully) and giving us experience in her Storytelling for Business symposium which might otherwise not be possible. I have developed so much since the start of my PhD and this is in no small way due to the support Lizzie has given me. I think she should be commended for her role in taking postgraduate students to the next level.

Peter Murphy

Peter was a mentor who guide us through the ups and downs of our project. he offered valuable advice, help us stay on track, and provide support when things get tough. With his guidance, we could tackle challenges, learn new skills, and ultimately, succeed in completing our project with confidence.

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science

Beth Nurse

Always supporting students and helping us with problems we may have. Goes out of her way to make sure we understand and are thriving. Beth's addition to the faculty has had such a large, positive impact on each and every student in such a short space of time. It can be seen, without a doubt, just how passionate and enthusiastic she is and I feel this is highly commendable for someone so new to the team.

As my supervisor for my final year dissertation/group project, Beth has not only provided valuable insight and support throughout, but she has become an inspirational role model for me as the type of expertise she brings with her is what I hope to gain from my future career. The way that Beth invests her time to students does make a massive difference and especially when undertaking a final year project, as it can be a very stressful time. I cannot thank Beth enough for her understanding and outstanding support. The last 3 years have been challenging for both students and lecturers, with staff sickness, staff absences, staff leaving, changes in timetabling and different lecturers with different styles. This third year, along came our new lecturer, Beth for our Major Crime Scene Module. Wow!

She came to us with so many ideas, and so much understanding of how stressful and challenging the year prior had been. She instantly made the students and myself reassured, she had a plan of changing the way it was taught, all to help us adjust to a new lecturer and module style.

Hannah Seale

I'm voting for Hannah Minton as the best supervisor because of her exceptional mentorship skills, her ability to provide constructive feedback, her willingness to support and guide you through challenges, and her dedication to your professional and personal growth. Additionally, her approachable demeanour, effective communication, and capacity to inspire and motivate you to achieve your goals are all factors influencing my decision to vote for her as the best supervisor. She is very passionate about the subject and has been there every step of the way. It is brilliant being able to contact her with all my questions and receive a result very promptly so I can continue working. I would happily do my Msci dissertation with Hannah in year 4 also.

Since then, she has stuck to her plan, and been a consistent lecturer, which we really needed within this course! She delivers her lectures in a professional yet enjoyable manor, bringing her infectious, warm and funny personality into her teaching, both in lectures and practicals.

She has so much experience in the field, and delivers that in such an effective way, she has the amazing ability to attract her students attention and very importantly in a way we can understand. There has been so much confusion with having different lecturers filling in the last academic year that she somehow managed to overturn that and help us all be the best students possible within the field.

She made the practicals interesting and engaging. She went above and beyond with them, including a 'plane crash' scenario on campus, borrowing equipment from Treforest campus to set the scene! It was fantastic! We all appreciate Beth, she has been a breath of fresh air needed after a tumultuous year 2. We have learnt so much from her and her brilliant way of teaching makes it stick in students minds.

I'm a mature student and a single mother of 2 young children. She has also been my PAC coach and I couldn't have completed this year without her empathy and understanding. Juggling life with studying full time, working and a mum is do tough and it's nice to have someone who understands it. She is an asset to USW and to all her students! We are so lucky to have her!

Sky Redhead

She was awe-inspiring as a supervisor. She made me work independently towards my Masters Dissertation starting from the beginning. Not only did she give me ample opportunity to practice lab work and get hands on experience in several techniques in molecular biology and microbiology but she was always available when in need. Despite doing a masters research, I was not at all stressed out and was looking forward to every day at the lab. I see no one better suited for this award than her.

Nova Corcoran

Dr. Nova exemplifies the epitome of a dedicated educator whose commitment to her students knows no bounds. Dr. Nova's selflessness is evident in every aspect of her teaching. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that her students not only grasp the material but also thrive academically and personally. Her unwavering support and encouragement create an environment where students feel empowered to excel.

She possesses a profound understanding of her subject matter and has a unique ability to convey complex concepts in a clear and concise manner. Her passion for teaching is very evident. It has been a privilege being one of her students.

Beyond her impressive credentials, what truly sets Dr. Nova apart is her genuine care for her students. She takes the time to get to know each student individually, understanding their strengths and weaknesses. and this extends far beyond the classroom, as she provides invaluable guidance and support to help her students navigate challenges and achieve their goals.

Dr. Nova basically embodies everything that a great lecturer should be: selfless, knowledgeable, and deeply invested in the success and well-being of her students. It is an honor to nominate her for the "Best Lecturer" award, and I am confident that she is truly deserving of this recognition.

Joanna Thompson

Joanna not only gives me support through life and degree in general, I found her invaluable during my dissertation/practise project. She is so friendly and accommodating, she understands my needs and disabilities and always gave me friendly reminders or changed dates for supervision at late minute to bet accommodate me, with no judgement what's so ever, even though I'm sure I was irritating! But every supervision she greeted me with a warm smile, checked in on me and then provided me with invaluable support and constructive criticism in which to improve my work to the best of my ability.

James Greville

James is always happy to help and takes time out of his day to make sure we are ok with the workload. Patient, well informed & approachable. James will always make extra time for his students & has a great approach to offering additional mentoring where needed. James often makes himself available when needed and is strongly driven towards enthusiasm when supervising his students. He is always supportive, easy to engage with, and often excited to discuss the topics at hand.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR

The Student Representative of the Year award encompasses the Course Representative of the Year, Student Voice Representative of the Year and the Student Councillor of the Year.

The winners of these categories are students who have gone above and beyond in representing their peers –from running campaigns to gathering feedback, Student Voice Reps help ensure students get the best possible experience at USW.

Shortlisted Nominees:

Course Representative of the Year

Adrian Lloyd

Adrian has been an absolutely amazing Student Rep for MA CAMH- He is selfless in all he has done to help us all – So many of us have both UK and International Students benefitted and are still benefitting from his ongoing support, knowledge sharing, and caring nature... This MA journey would not of been the journey it has been without him – His dedication goes above and beyond anything I have ever known for a volunteer role – He is a credit to the USW and I know I for one would like to see him recognised for being AWESOME! Adrian is the course rep for the CAMH MA. He is a part time student on the course and has carried out the course rep role for two years. Each year he has gone above and beyond the expectations of the role. He has set up a weekly peer support study group for fellow students across all our MA pathways in education. He has set up WhatsApp groups and picked up informal student queries throughout the semesters and into the holiday period. If he can't find an answer he makes sure that he can find someone who can. As a teaching team we have been immensely touched by a tabletop give away that he and fellow students organised at Christmas (2023-24). This was in response to an issue that was brought up at SSLCG (Staff Student Liaison Course Group) meetings for some international students settling in Wales. Here they organised collections from local organisations and the giveaway at Newport City Campus for items such as toys, warm clothing, school uniforms, baby equipment. I'd like to thank him for all of his hard work and care by nominating him for this award. Adrian has extended an exceptional academic help to international students. His initiation in the peer support group to help student with academic support was highly appreciative.

Ceri-Ann Parks

Ceri-Ann work work ethics that are second to none, her civility and kindness towards others are inspirational.

Ceri-Ann is neurodivergent, and takes steps to ensure she understands all assignment criteria and all contents and materials within lessons are understand, adding to her already high work load. Ceri-Ann always puts her self forward to support all her colleagues, including myself , taking the role of class rep seriously. Ceri-Ann is also chair for the midwifery society, again contributing much of her precious time in further providing education for all cohorts, motivating and cheering all students on, while being a busy mum. Ceri-Ann is the stability to September 2021 cohort, her mood never falters always up-beat and encouraging, despite the circumstances, Ceri-Ann is often overlooked when praise is provided, this is due to her quiet, nature, Ceri-Ann words "happy to be involved" when many situations sees Ceri-Ann doing the majority of the work. Ceri-Ann deserves this award, she deserves to be recognised for not only the way she supports all students but her continual dedication and advocacy of neurodivergent students, identifying obstacles within her studies and paving the way for future students, as well as supporting myself in navigating my way through this midwifery programme, ensuring I recognise students who have additional needs.

Kylie Erricker

Kylie joined the university in September 2023. She is currently undertaking a Cert HE in Nursing Support Worker Education. She stepped forward as a course rep when nominations were requested. Since taking on this role, she has been an exemplary asset to the team. She communicates well and effectively with her classmates to seek feedback and liaises with the module and course team to highlight concerns and learning opportunities. She helps to inform her classmates to ease worries and brings prudent advice following effective discussions. She has also been a support to classmates and staff in lessons and helped to ease anxiety. In particular, there was angst around the first assignment submission on this course, which caused frustration, and some behaviours from others in her class that was harmful to others and staff. Kylie was able to sooth the discussion, and kindly messaged the staff after the event to offer apologies on behalf of the class and check on welfare. She embodies what you want to see in a healthcare professional, and future nursing student. Well done Kylie!

Student Voice Representative of the Year

Irfan Fahim

Irfan has been nothing short of inspirational in his time as SVR, supporting not only students within the faculty, but establishing a thriving Bangladeshi student society and acting as a role model for SVR's around him.

Through organising inclusive events, providing mentorship, and championing important causes, Irfan's contributions have left a lasting impact on the university community. I am proud to nominate Irfan for the Student Voice Representative of the Year. This nomination is in recognition of his exceptional service and advocacy on behalf of our student community over the past academic year.

Advocacy and Engagement:

Throughout his tenure, Irfan has been a proactive advocate for student interests. His ability to engage with both students and staff has led to meaningful dialogues and substantial improvements in bringing international students within the course together.

Communication Excellence:

Irfan has consistently demonstrated excellent communication skills, ensuring that all student voices are heard.

Leadership and Initiative:

Irfan has shown true leadership by initiating programs that have directly benefited the student community. One notable initiative was the encouragement and events he organised for the Bangladesh Society that led to the formation of many other societies such as the Indian Society and also the Coding Society. His guidance has been valuable and insightful to both staff and students.

Impact and Results:

The impact of Irfan's efforts was evident in the cultural events he organised that led to a more inclusive and supportive campus feel, fostering better academic and social outcomes for students.

Irfan's commitment, leadership, and tangible results make him an outstanding candidate for the Student Voice Representative of the Year. His dedication to enhancing the student experience at our institution exemplifies the spirit and purpose of this award.

Jordan Lewis-Iles

Hard work for students. Jordan has consistently demonstrated an unparalleled level of activity and engagement in supporting students' needs and concerns. His tireless efforts to amplify student voices and advocate for positive change within the university community have not gone unnoticed. Jordan's proactive approach to student representation sets him apart. He actively seeks out opportunities to connect with students, listen to their feedback, and champion their interests on various platforms. He goes above and beyond to ensure that student voices are heard and respected, advocating for policies and initiatives that prioritize student well-being and academic success.

His active involvement and unwavering dedication to supporting students make him an exceptional candidate for this award. I have no doubt that he will continue to inspire positive change and make a lasting impact on our university community. Jordan is very passionate about the student voice and this has allowed him to carry out his duties as an SVR to an exceptionally high standard. His dedication, over the years, to representing the student voice is admirable and he is always keen to take feedback from students in order to try to enact change or find ways to improve student life.

He engages with students regularly, which I can only imagine can be hard with so many students, yet Jordan takes it in his stride and works hard in reaching out to as many students as he can. His efforts are greatly appreciated by the student body he fights so hard for. Jordan has been a fantastic SVR this year, always putting the students' wants, needs and feelings at the heart of all of what he does. Jordan is passionate in his role to make sure the student voice is heard. He has worked so hard to make this happen. Jordan has gone above and beyond to engage with students and share his voice to ensure all students feel safe on campus. He is approachable and will work to his best ability to support a student who has a concern or a corner that needs fighting. Jordan has a variety of students feel heard and supported and is an inspiration to all those who study. Jordan has been a student voice rep for some time now. He has worked exceptionally hard and done a brilliant job at representing his course-mates. He has always acted professionally, attended all SSCLG meetings, approached these meetings in a proactive and constructive way, and been integral to shaping the Course for the better. Thank you, Jordan!

He is very communicative and cares

Georgia Powell

Georgia has been a huge advocate for all students. She has always had a good relationship with her lecturers and peers that has enabled her to undertake her role well. She has been a face of USW at so many events and is a true supporter of her fellow students and the University. Georgia is my academic school representative and although I have had no reason to contact Georgia, I wish to vote for her as student rep of the year. Georgia has always been dedicated towards representing the study body. She is very passionate and driven towards making all voices heard and ensuring education is accessible for all students at USW. Georgia as a very inspirational representative, a lot of people look forward to seeing what she does next!

Student Councillor of the Year

Saadia Aslam

I am not a student but still wish to nominate Saadia for her work in this role. As her course leader I do get to see the way she interacts with her peers and I see her support her fellow students.

David Obawole

David's exceptional dedication and tireless advocacy for student welfare and education make him an outstanding candidate for this recognition. As a student councillor, David has distinguished himself through his unwavering commitment to representing and championing the interests of his fellow students. Through his passionate advocacy and proactive campaigns,

David has consistently worked to address critical issues facing the student community and to effect positive change in the Cardiff campus. He actively seeks input from students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, ensuring that his advocacy efforts truly reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire student community.

Throughout his role as Cardiff Campus Officer, David has always gone above and beyond to help spread the Union's mission and achieve its goals by having a close relationship with the students and societies of Cardiff Campus and being their megaphone to project their needs and concerns to us at the Students' Union. He has been a real asset to the Student Council this year and I can't thank him enough for his commitment in the role.

David embodies the essence of an exemplary student councillor: passionate, proactive, and dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the lives of his peers. His relentless advocacy for student welfare and education sets him apart as a truly deserving candidate for the award.

BEST COURSE LEADER

The Best Course Leader Award is open to staff members who are dedicated course leaders. These are individuals who go above and beyond when leading the course.

The Best Course Leader Award is split into faculty awards – allowing three individuals to win! The winners from each faculty are then eligible for the ‘Winner of Winners Best Course Leader Award’.

Past Winners:

2023

Hannah Coburn (FBCI)
Mia Lambert (FCES)
Rachel Taylor (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Mia Lambert

2022

Clare Lewis (FBCI)
Lewis Fall (FCES)
Elizabeth Coombes (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Lewis Fall

2021

Ryan Preece (FBCI)
Christopher Tubb (FCES)
Maria Parry (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Ryan Preece

2020

Clare Lewis (FBS)
Elke Scheibler (FCI)
Jodie Allison (FCES)
Hayley Gibson (FLSE)

Winner of Winners – Elke Scheibler

Faculty of Business and Creative Industries

Barrie Llewelyn

Barrie has been a great point of contact for any problems and concerns that I have with any of my lectures. I have Barrie for two of my modules and she always gives me great feedback on how I can improve to get a better grade. The classes that I have with Barrie are fun and interesting to interact with as the writing prompts given have been ones I have never tried before. She has posted lots of opportunities that I have taken and gained experience in the places that I've applied for. Barrie always has my best interests in heart and I couldn't see myself having a better course leader than her. Barrie is a brilliant course leader and I wouldn't have her support with all the extra activities and things I have signed up to without her help. She is kind and caring and helps to explain where I've gone wrong and how I can prove. I don't think I would be able to pass year 1 on my course without her help and her inspiration of doing well. Barrie has been the most outstanding course leader. On a personal level, I have had a particularly difficult couple of years that has impacted my capabilities of studying to the best of my ability. Barrie's care and compassion has helped me to get back on track. Barrie goes above and beyond for every student on her course - she ensures that every student is doing okay and when they are not she will always find a way to assist in putting things right. She is so approachable, a fabulous quality for a course leader to have, especially in a time where so many people struggle with anxiety and mental health issues that may cause them to get lost and worried about speaking up. Barrie is so respectful, lovely, and simply outstanding in every aspect of her job. I could not think of anybody more worthy of recognition for all of the incredible things that she does and amazing impact that she has on people's lives. Barrie has been an incredible support to everyone on the English and Creative Writing course. She has supported me in my attempts to rectify previous years that ended unsuccessfully due to medical illness. She has listened steadfastly, encouraged me during our PAC (personal academic coaching) meetings and kept me on track this year. She has made everyone feel heard on our course in what we need and the way we best learn and I think she would make an excellent candidate for this award. Her genuine happiness at our successes is heartwarming and shows how much she cares about the students as well.

Jonathan Evans

The course leader sparks beyond just teaching content, they have had a significant impact on students' personal and academic development, fostering critical thinking, problem solving skills, and a passion for the subject.

Hannah Coburn

she has been an absolute gem, she is proactive, provides loads of support and is always ready to help. she is also an excellent lecturer. Hannah has been my rock from the day I started university. This year I have had one of the most challenging years yet and Hannah has been by my side since. The unconditional support and guidance she has given me is unbelievable. Words cannot thank her enough so in return, I want to nominate Hannah as I know it's something that will really make her day! She is a great leader. Hannah's compassion and dedication to every single student is incredible. She goes above and beyond to ensure that everybody is ok and that everybody can access university depending on their additional needs. She has created an innovative group (EDI Law) specifically targeted at such issues. Furthermore, Hannah continuously seeks opportunities to enhance the student experience, and makes sure to take feedback onboard to improve both current lectures and future course delivery. Well where do I even start! Han is a fantastic course lead! She is so attentive and genuinely cares about her students and their success. No problem is too big and goes above and beyond to help her students academically and personally. Her personal messages every term really make you sit back and realise how amazing we are doing from another perspective. Han really is one in a million! She is extremely understanding and supportive. I doubt I could get through first year without her. She's also full of joy and is extremely considerate, She actually cares for the students she has! Han has gone above and beyond her duties. She is kind and caring and fights for her students. She has founded the law EDI group which campaigns for equality diversity and inclusion. She has made university possible for me as a disabled student.

Anthony Caravaggi

Anthony replaced Elka as course leader half way through my first year of IWB. I got to know him properly in Africa and ever since the support he has given me has been amazing, I've been through a rough time at home and Anthony has always believed in me despite life being somewhat stressful at times. In Africa I was away from my little boy and Anthony understood how I was feeling as he was also away from his little girl, he always reminded me as to why I was doing this degree and he gave me a determination I did not know I had. I went from just wanting to pass in first year, to aiming for a first class honours degree. He has pushed me to be the best I can be, supported me more than I can possibly describe. I have learnt so much from him about ecology and I think he's done absolutely amazing coming into a course as course leader half way through our first year and ensuring that every single person had a smooth transition - all the while planning a trip to africa after lockdown restrictions had just lifted. I couldn't have asked for a better course leader to have while getting my degree.

Josephine Bradley

She reminded me of the joy and enthusiasm of learning Anatomy in depth, all over again. Most importantly, she always assures the best delivery of content material according to student request across all modules, enhancing communication between all teaching team and students. She reminded me of the joy and enthusiasm of learning Anatomy in depth, all over again. Most importantly, she always assures the best delivery of content material according to student request across all modules, enhancing communication between all teaching team and students. She reminded me of the joy and enthusiasm of learning Anatomy in depth, all over again. Most importantly, she always assures the best delivery of content material according to student request across all modules, enhancing communication between all teaching team and students. Josie is an absolutely fantastic course lead. Josie makes a conscious effort to engage with students - regularly organising catch up / drop in sessions around stressful times like exams to ensure we are all doing well. She is very caring, and makes the course run as smoothly as it does. Josie is also very organised and goes above and beyond to make our lives easier which I really appreciate! The transition to university itself and from year to year can be really stressful but Josie has always made this easy - leaving me feeling very comfortable at uni and has helped build my confidence. Most organised and supportive.

Hannah Seale

Hannah is hands down the best course leader she takes everything in her stride and honestly gives the best support she can if Hannah wasn't here I don't think I would still be here. Hannah is easily approachable, always available to contact for information or help and explains everything well. Hannah is a great course leader and it is clear why. She's so organised and ready to help with absolutely anything, and she is also super funny and friendly, she knows what she's doing and she makes sure we know exactly what we are doing too. Hannah is always very helpful when I have a query and is quick to reply. She gives as much information as she can great leader and lecturer. very kind and understanding, supportive with any difficulties i have. Hannah is the most hard-working person I have ever met, she takes on so much including modules and even courses. Hannah is always available for support and will make time for all her students. If there is an issue with anything Hannah tries to deal with it as soon as she can. She is a genuinely nice person and just wants the best for her students. I can go to her for any worries or questions I have. Helps getting support and making my way through the course. Hannah is a lovely course leader, she is the person I turn to about a problem about the course or perhaps any queries I may have. She has been able to carry out the course leader part even though our other course leader left and has been doing the best she can which is appreciated. She always keeps us upto date with everything and tries to solve any problems that may occur. Very very organised helped me so much during a period of time where uni was difficult

Stacey Rees

Stacey always goes above and beyond – is available and on hand for me whenever I need help with anything. You can tell her work and what she does really means a lot to her. Going above and beyond for LD student nurses always. Easily approachable and very very helpful. Stacey always encourages students to do their best along with providing full support. Stacey always sorts out problems when needed. Stacey is so supportive of all learning disability students. She goes above and beyond to provide the best student experience possible. Stacey organises events and conferences and regularly invites students to further learning experiences from other professionals either in person or online e.g. learning about the importance of dental hygiene for those with learning disabilities, breast feeding in Down Syndrome, learning Makaton etc. She also mentors students through a BTEC in Positive Behavioural Support and has implemented Journal Club and a student newsletter. Stacey has gone above and beyond every year for her students. She is extremely supportive and approachable. Stacey always has to reassure her students no matter what the issue may be. Stacey is always available to contact when needed. Stacey also acts as an advocate for the University of South Wales, her students, the Learning Disability course, and people with Learning disabilities themselves. I am honoured and privileged to have had such a positive and supportive person by my side through each part of the course. Stacy is an exceptional lecturer in the field of learning disabilities. She ensures that each module is thoroughly understood and goes above and beyond to provide assistance and reassurance to her students. Her passionate approach and commitment to her students' success are evident in her teaching style and interactions. Stacy has a remarkable ability to impart knowledge and instill confidence in her students, which makes her an invaluable asset to the academic community.

Heloise Godfrey-Talbot

always supportive. does so much for all the classes. always available to provide help. always going above what is necessary to support students. Heloise is the most patient, kind and genuine lecturers I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Heloise has time for everyone and handles every situation with care and grace. She is a pure joy to be around and she's so passionate about her job. Heloise throughout the whole of the three years has continuously supported students to achieve the best they can, her care and support is unconditional and persistent. she always makes us feel proud of our achievements and will always adapt her teachings to support different needs. She has taken on so much these last two years having to step up to course leader, she works to the highest standard and is completely admirable in how much work she has to undertake but always looks like she does it with ease and always putting students first. Heloise is an incredibly caring person, last year and this year has had a lot on her plate and juggled it well while still paying attention to each one of us and provided caring support. The course would have not been able to run without her – especially with Becky being on long-term leave last year – and her smile just brightens the room. Heloise has been nothing but helpful, she has made the course bereable and has been professional and supportive throughout my time in University. Heloise is a professional and inspiring lecturer that brings the best out of her students while being respectful and considerate of student needs and intentions. For taking on course leader temporarily and then being offered it permanently and leading the course with only one other member of staff. Going out her way to find out information, share services and opportunities for her students. Really for bringing everything to the creative and therapeutic course. Part way through last year we had no Course Leader. Heloise took on that role and brought calm to the chaos. She continued this into this academic year until she was finally successful in being appointed CTA Course Leader. Still, with staff shortages, she has been able to maintain that calm. She brings out the best in people, gets them on board and supports them all the way. Heloise has been very open and communicative. Any issues brought to her have always been dealt with care and with very clear practical steps forward to solve problems. In what has been quite a challenging year she has been brilliant and everyone has felt very reassured having her as course leader. Heloise has helped greatly in assisting us during our year 1 struggles and complications with submissions ext. always keeping us aware and updated about any sudden changes. She has been a rock and constant as a lecturer but has been made course leader which is deserved as she has done everything in her power to help keep the course ticking along. Nothing is ever too much for her.

Nova Corcoran

Dr. Nova exemplifies the epitome of a dedicated educator whose commitment to her students knows no bounds. Dr. Nova's selflessness is evident in every aspect of her teaching. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that her students not only grasp the material but also thrive academically and personally. Her unwavering support and encouragement create an environment where students feel empowered to excel.

She possesses a profound understanding of her subject matter and has a unique ability to convey complex concepts in a clear and concise manner. Her passion for teaching is very evident. It has been a privilege being one of her students.

Beyond her impressive credentials, what truly sets Dr. Nova apart is her genuine care for her students. She takes the time to get to know each student individually, understanding their strengths and weaknesses, and this extends far beyond the classroom, as she provides invaluable guidance and support to help her students navigate challenges and achieve their goals.

Dr. Nova basically embodies everything that a great lecturer should be: selfless, knowledgeable, and deeply invested in the success and well-being of her students. It is an honor to nominate her for the "Best Lecturer" award, and I am confident that she is truly deserving of this recognition.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT SUPPORT

The Outstanding Student Support Award is open to all non-teaching staff. The recipient will have shown excellent support to students and gone above & beyond to help give students the best possible experience, whilst studying at USW.

Shortlisted Nominees:

Joanna Scaplehorn

Joanna Scaplehorn is working as an International Development Manager in University's future students' team.

I have been noticing her for a year now. She is always there for the international students.

While working as a student navigator, I observed her going above and beyond her duties by assisting students in obtaining their BRPs from the international team. Despite it not being her responsibility, she noticed the long queues of students and voluntarily stepped in to support the officers for an entire week, ensuring that students received their BRPs promptly.

Her exceptional kindness and unwavering support have left a lasting impact on the entire student community. It's difficult to find a student who has reached out to her for assistance and hasn't received a prompt and effective solution.

For these remarkable qualities and her dedication to student welfare, I wholeheartedly advocate for her to be recognized with the Outstanding Student Support Award.

I had the privilege of getting to know Joanna Scaplehorn, the International Development Manager from the Future Students Team.

Her dedication to students has always been exemplary. One notable instance occurred last September when she noticed a longer queue of students. Without hesitation, she stepped in to assist the associated officers in issuing BRPs, despite it not being her responsibility.

Indeed, Joanna's selfless actions transcend mere duty; they embody the essence of empathy and human connection. Her unwavering commitment to the well-being of our student community, especially during times of adversity, sets her apart as a beacon of compassion and support.

It is rare to encounter someone who consistently places the needs of others above their own, yet Joanna does so effortlessly and with genuine sincerity. Her ability to bridge gaps, alleviate burdens, and offer solace in moments of despair has earned her the utmost respect and admiration from both international and local students alike. Her unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students, especially during times of adversity, sets her apart as a beacon of compassion and support.

It is undeniable that Joanna has carved out a special place in the hearts of our student body, becoming not just a support figure, but a trusted confidant and friend. Her impact reverberates far beyond the confines of our campus, as her reputation as a compassionate ally precedes her, making her the go-to person for those in need. In recognition of her unparalleled dedication and selflessness, there is no doubt that Joanna Scaplehorn will be the most deserving recipient of the Outstanding Student Support Award.

Jose Lopez Blanco

he supports students passionately and makes things very accesible. Jose is the English Faculty Librarian and such a wonderful part of the English BA experience. He is always available and happy to assist anybody with their needs. Jose was absolutely outstanding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic - ensuring that the cohort had access to the texts required for all modules in a very uncertain time when we were unable to be on campus. That level of support certainly deserves recognition. Jose is so quick to respond to emails asking for help. He is happy to advise texts that would be useful and always finds a way to allow access to things the university may not already have. He does all of this in such a timely fashion with urgency of ensuring everybody has what they need. He is truly an unsung hero of the English faculty!

Jose is the USW librarian and is quite simply brilliant! He is quick with replies when contacted regarding assignment or dissertation literature and provides a great list of relevant sources.

Jose is the faculty librarian and has worked with the Ops Pol students to provide invaluable support, particularly for dissertations/research based assessments. He is quick to respond, provides useful lists of resources and links. He has provided 1-1 online support on request, working around police officer shift times. Jose has now worked with us to set up inputs on Library skills for year 1 students, and an enhanced research session for the dissertation students. Very well liked by the students and an excellent support to the lecturing team likewise when setting up/enhancing modules. Swift to get us access to useful texts and work with us to enhance the student experience. Jose is our faculty librarian and has become intrinsic to the team across the whole region. His passion for helping students with their studies and enabling them to make the best use of the library is unrivalled. He is keen to work with all areas within the region, is flexible to the requirements within the teams and adaptable with his delivery. He is now involved across all years of the programme. Students will often say that he has helped them with their research, particularly for their EBRP and he has received thanks within the EBRP acknowledgements. Jose is a key asset and is part of our team.

Rebecca Wilson

Rebecca is a phenomenal support. She has listened and made changes because of student input. Rebecca cares about students experience, it is more that a job to her. She has been instrumental in making my life at university being affected as little as possible by my learning difficulties. Due to medical reasons before attending USW in September, I had to apply for DSA. Rebecca kindly met me at the Newport campus to discuss the process and the support available during my academic year. She also explained that I could change from full-time to part-time if my treatment and recovery had an impact on my studies. During my studies, I was diagnosed with dyslexia and Rebecca contacted me to reassess my student requirements and put a support package in place to help with my dissertation. The time scale of having the support in place is essential and without Rebecca's help I think I would have been overwhelmed had she not implemented my support in a timely manner. It is with great respect and appreciation that I write this nomination for Rebecca (Becky) Wilson. Becky is an outstanding disability advisor; who is wholeheartedly leading USW towards understanding the complex needs of disabled students. Becky has treated me with respect and dignity throughout my university journey and has assisted me with seeking a full autism assessment referral. I have gained courage, trust, hope, and confidence through Becky's reassurance and guidance. She has enabled me to achieve the unachievable. As a 40 year old single parent with many learning difficulties, leaving high school with just one GCSE and a life time of being called "stupid" and "weird" Becky helped me to prove the bullies wrong!

OPERATIONAL POLICING IMPACT AWARD

The Operational Policing Impact Award is for an Operational Policing Student who has contributed to the field of policing through their research or work.

Shortlisted Nominees:

Michael Golder

Michael or Mike has been a great help to his university cohort, Police initial training, professional development unit and front line response squad. Mike is always first to call up to help colleagues or for jobs and help members of the public. Mike is viewed on his squad as experienced over his years and rightly so. Having worked along side him, you never have to worry on what he is doing and have complete trust in your co worker. Mike will be the first to help out anyone on his squad disregarding his own welfare and being off late to help other colleagues. Finally Mike embodies the phrase "cheerfulness in the face of adversity" and Unselfishness.

Ben Turk

Ben has now completed and graduated from the programme. Throughout his studies he aimed for academic excellence and was committed to the programme. Within his dissertation year, he completed a study that reviewed and updated the disproportionality rates of the use of stop search powers within the county. In order to do this he gathered updated data from the force and analysed this against the updated census figures. This analysis was motivated by his own desire to ensure that the force were working on the most recent figures, appreciating the impact that the use disproportionate use of stop search powers on community trust and police legitimacy. Throughout the study, Ben was also able to recognise areas for improvements in data quality, making recommendations that could be utilised immediately for positive change. This was recognised within Ben's work and the Chief Officer Group alerted to the work that had been completed, saving force a further task that needed allocation. Ben not only completed a study with real utility for force but also demonstrated his ability to be determined, self motivated and produce research of 1st class standard.

STAFF AWARD FOR STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

This award is for a member of staff that has not just worked with a student but has demonstrated a commitment to partnership & collaboration within their work.

Shortlisted Nominees:

Hannah Seale

I have been one of Hannah's students from the very moment she started at the university in 2019 and I can honestly say that - as a student who is graduating this year - it has been an absolute pleasure to have been one of her students. In every role she has undertaken she has given 110% and more, she is a perfect example of what it means to treat students as more than what they are and to truly connect for a partnership that will help them to reach their full potential. I'm voting for Hannah Minton for the Staff Award for Student Partnership because of her exceptional dedication to collaborating with students in various aspects of university life. Hannah consistently involves students in decision-making processes, seeks their input on program development, and actively listens to their perspectives to enhance the student experience. Her commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships with students, empowering them to play an active role in shaping their education, and advocating for their needs makes her a deserving candidate for this award. Additionally, her approachable demeanour, effective communication skills, and genuine care for student well-being further highlight her suitability for recognition in this category.

The support that she has given me throughout my time at university has helped me to push through and overcome so many obstacles and I think she really has contributed to helping me get this far. She has dedicated a great amount of her time to each and every student and it is apparent how appreciative students are for this. Hannah really has made my time at university a more enjoyable, less stressful experience and for that I cannot thank her enough.

Stacey Rees

Stacey listens to student concerns and offers reassurance, options and practical guidance on overcoming what sometimes appear to be insurmountable problems. I would not have managed to stay on the course without her support. My university lecturer embodies the epitome of support, openness, and honesty, consistently surpassing the confines of her job role to ensure every student feels valued and empowered. Her unwavering availability for support knows no bounds, extending her guidance and assistance beyond the confines of regular office hours, making herself accessible any day of the week. What truly sets her apart is her genuine concern for each student's well-being, demonstrated through her regular check-ins and thoughtful inquiries about our needs for additional support. With her compassionate approach and dedication to our growth, she not only educates but also nurtures our personal and academic development, fostering an environment where every student feels heard, understood, and supported to thrive. Stacey has been exceptional throughout.

Tom Harris

Tom is an asset and an invaluable USW technician. At the start of the term, Tom led student workshops covering all the software packages used in cyber security over the first two terms. His workshops were recorded and made available on Blackboard and he has also answered many questions and sent tutorial links via email, which goes beyond his work remit. Tom has also helped students in class resolve software issues and although he is not a teacher his wealth of knowledge and experience has benefited me and many students at USW.

MOST INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT

The Most Inspirational Student award celebrates our most inspiring students. These may be individuals who have achieved things outside their studies, those who have shown dedication to a particular cause or achieved something that needs celebrating!

Shortlisted Nominees:

Patricia Langford

Trisha has worked so hard to get to this stage of the degree, and almost finished, which is an achievement in itself. The way she has shown determination, grit and endurance throughout her studies whilst experiencing so many personal issues, has been very admirable. These could not be summed up more effectively than the words below shared by her Club Mentor at Huddersfield Town Foundation:

"A general overview of Trish as a student; Trisha has been a great student in her own right throughout her time on her Foundation Degree, and continuing through her top-up. As a mature student, she has additional challenges centered around family life and her 3 children and her own health and wellbeing. However, Trisha has been resilience personified when life has thrown her additional challenges amongst the daily ones, she has risen to them, met them head on, and still managed to come out smiling (and with good grades!). Trisha is truly inspirational to me as her mentor, as the mental fortitude she displays consistently is incredible. I can never help but think, would I have been so tough in those situations and with so many plates to spin?

What she brings to the cohort at your Club; Trisha is an inspiration to the other students in her endeavors, and a real reality check at times when students are complaining about quite frankly trivial issues in comparison. She has been helpful in workshops sessions with 1st and 2nd year students and supportive of other students with work and in their assessments.

The impact she may have had through her studies, placement and/or work; Trisha through her circumstances has had limitations and barriers to consistent placement work. However, she has frequently put herself forward to help out on a range of events during her time with us and has received fantastic feedback on her engagement and professionalism. Trisha's eldest son is diagnosed as an autistic person, this has brought challenges to Trisha, however this has influenced her choices and demonstrated an interest in SEND delivery in sports and the accessibility of PE/physical activity to participants of this nature.

Some of her biggest achievements; Trisha passing her Foundation degree was a monumental achievement for her, considering the personal circumstances and wide array of barriers that were ever-changing and providing obstacles for her to scale. Without going into the specifics of some of the issues, they were tough under any circumstances. However, to come out with good grades in her assignments throughout this phase was nothing short of astounding. Trisha showed her character, determination, and commitment to her goals by continuing on to the top-up degree. She has met similar and new challenges this academic year, however has still managed to keep going and keep her head above water. I'm confident with the excellent and ongoing tailored support from USW and EFLT staff that we can get her on that graduation podium this year and eclipse her Foundation degree achievement with a Bachelor's degree.

Any adversity she may have overcome. There's obviously quite a lot here, but please give what you feel is appropriate. Childcare – oldest son being an autistic person: Trisha had weekly issues caring for her son Riley, as well as her two other younger children. There was quite a turbulent period through her Foundation Degree where the school Riley was at was clearly not staffed or had the infrastructure to support Rileys' needs. His movement into a specific secondary school has provided a much more balanced approach for Riley and alleviated some pressures from Trisha. Trisha has had some disruption to her family life which has subsequently impacted her health and wellbeing. Trisha has also been the victim of theft this year which has impacted her beyond the loss of valuable and sentimental possessions.

Rhiannon Barber

I am nominating Rhiannon because I believe she is an exceptionally deserving candidate for this award, she is truly an inspirational person.

I genuinely don't think there are enough words to describe or explain how incredible Rhiannon is and the impact she has made so far. I haven't known Rhiannon for that long but the influence I noticed she's making in such a short period of time on myself, and her peers is second to none.

Rhiannon is very committed to making not just the music and arts industry accessible, but the world. From hosting accessible open mic nights, attending conferences, to being guest lecturer at BIMM University regarding accessibility in the arts, and even creating a weekly newsletter for anyone to use and access called 'Amplifying Accessibility'. In this newsletter she created, Rhiannon promotes training opportunities, news and shares tools built for all abilities to use, and to highlight how best to support non abled bodied people.

When she first started out in the music industry, Rhiannon was told she was not able enough to be a real musician, and yet she is continuing to break the boundaries and the stigmas by performing in her own band, applying for a PhD, and continuing to raise issues about accessibility in her work and outside of her work simultaneously.

She is always going above and beyond when it comes to supporting individuals in their time of need and is so selfless by always putting others happiness and feelings before her own. She often shares her own stories, experiences and how she has navigated those to help her peers going through a similar experience and providing a support network and showing them that they are definitely not alone in all of it.

She is also really invested in charity work, at the time of writing this nomination Rhiannon is doing a 100 push ups with one hand a day challenge for the month of April in aid of Cancer Research UK and has currently raised over £200 for the organisation. This follows on from a saddening loss she has suffered, losing her mum at 22 years old to cancer.

Rhiannon is always pushing people to be the best possible versions of themselves and always being a friendly and reliable presence for her peers to turn to. She is a true advocate & champion for students and people living with disabilities.

In essence, she is more than just an inspiration, she's a symbol of hope and positivity. I am just in awe of her resilience, she refuses to let anything get her down and is always persevering around life's challenges. I believe she truly is an inspiration to all who know her, and I have no doubt that she will continue to leave a lasting impression on all who get the chance to meet her. Rhiannon's resilience, positivity, and selfless dedication to others make her an exceptionally deserving candidate for this recognition. Despite facing the daily obstacles of navigating life with a visible disability and having only one functional arm, Rhiannon refuses to let anything hold her back. Instead, she radiates boundless energy and enthusiasm, inspiring everyone around her with her indomitable spirit.

What truly sets Rhiannon apart is her extraordinary capacity for selflessness. Despite the adversity she has faced in her own life, she always prioritizes the well-being and happiness of others. Whether it's offering a listening ear, lending a helping hand, or simply brightening someone's day with her infectious smile, Rhiannon's acts of kindness leave an indelible mark on everyone she encounters.

Furthermore, Rhiannon's talents in both music and academics are nothing short of awe-inspiring. Her passion for music is palpable in every note she plays, infusing her performances with a raw emotion and depth that captivate audiences. In her studies, she demonstrates a keen intellect and insatiable curiosity, continually pushing herself to achieve excellence despite any obstacles in her path.

Above all, Rhiannon's genuine kindness and compassion shine through in all aspects of her life. She embodies the qualities of empathy, resilience, and generosity of spirit that serve as an inspiration to us all. Her unwavering determination to live life to the fullest and make a positive difference in the world is nothing short of extraordinary.

Rhiannon is more than just a student; she is a beacon of hope, resilience, and humanity. Her remarkable journey, unwavering positivity, and selfless dedication to others make her the epitome of inspiration. It is with great pride and admiration that I nominate Rhiannon for the title of "Most Inspirational Student," and I am confident that her remarkable story will continue to inspire countless others for years to come.

Hannah Jones

Hannah has been an amazing support! When struggling with either mental health or work, she has been there and never turned me away. She isn't just another student on the course, she is one of my good friends who I am so glad to have met. She inspires me to believe in myself more but to also realise that it's ok to feel frustrated or angry with yourself sometimes, it's just how you react to it and focus on the positives after. Hannah has been a leader amongst her cohort since day 1 of the course, being someone who represents the needs of her peers at all opportunities and has been integral for me as the Course Leader to understand how we develop the programme. She's consistently achieved high grades, even if she always felt she wanted more, and has also been integral in the development of the Female Development Programme, a project that has been created to support the development and achievement of females on our sports courses with the English Football League Trust (see article here - <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/courses/foundation-degree-sports-coaching-and-development/3667/hannah-jones-becomes-female-representative-on-female-development-programme/>).

Due to her outstanding contribution on our course, Hannah was recently awarded the Academia Award at our final Residential for her course. An award given to the student with the highest overall grade throughout the whole course...this is testament to her hard work and commitment. She was also nominated for a Professional Practice Award by her Club Mentor at Rotherham United Community Trust, with some text below. Hannah would be a worthy winner of any award, but especially one that lies in the inspirational category, as that is exactly what she does for everyone else:

"Was able to have a 20hr contract alongside of her degree in which she worked for the Education Department within the CCO on the alternative provision programme at Parkgate. Hannah was also nominated to be the female representative for the female football development programme. Hannah now has a full-time job at a local SEN primary school. (John Whitehead, Mentor & Jodie Hayes)". The following detail is being added to Hannah's previously submitted nomination. This information was provided by her Club Mentor at Rotherham United Community Sports Trust:

Hannah has been a student with Rotherham United Community Trust for the last 5 years, initially joining us as a Level 3 BTEC student in September 2019. After achieving outstanding grades (D*D*D*) on the BTEC Extended Diploma she progressed onto the Sports Coaching & Development Degree in partnership with the University of South Wales. Throughout her time on the Degree Hannah has continued to demonstrate outstanding motivation and hard-work and has consistently achieved over 70% on her assessments. Alongside her academic studies, Hannah has worked for the Community Trust, initially as a casual coach and more recently on a 20-hour weekly contract.

