



College of Arts & Letters
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters Educators Awarded as Student Success Champions

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Six College of Arts & Letters educators recently were recognized for their substantial contributions to undergraduate student success. They are among the 11 faculty and staff at Michigan State University who were awarded as part of the [Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success Recognition Program](#) presented by [MSU's Office of Undergraduate Education](#).



Pictured at the 2025 Student Success Summit are (from left to right): Maria O'Connell, Undergraduate Student Success Strategic Initiatives Manager; Renata Opoczynski, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Student Success; College of Arts & Letters award recipients Pat Arnold, Kirk Domer, Maggie Harris, and Victoria Morris; award recipient Jonglim Han, Director of DOW STEM Scholars; Mark Largent, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education; Amy Martin, Assistant Dean of Student Success Strategy; and award recipient ShirDonna Lawrence, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. *(Photo by Sarah Schultz, Director of the Spartan Experience Record)*

Awards were given to faculty and staff who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to one of the Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success, which include:

- Self-discovery of Purpose
- Educational Success
- Contributing to an Empowered Community
- Developing a Sense of Belonging
- Developing Wellbeing

College of Arts & Letters award recipients were represented in each of the five areas. The College of Arts & Letters educators receiving awards include:

For the area of Self-discovery of Purpose:

- **Maggie Harris**, Assistant Director of Internships and Career Education in the [Excel Network](#)
- **Victoria Morris**, Assistant Director of Career Services in the [Excel Network](#)

For the area of Educational Success:

- **Kirk Domer**, Professor of Scene Design in [MSU's Department of Theatre](#) and Director of Arts, Cultural Management, and Museum Studies in the College of Arts & Letters

For the area of Contributing to an Empowered Community:

- **Pat Arnold**, Assistant Director of Academic Programs in the [Center for Gender in Global Context \(GenCen\)](#)

For the area of Developing a Sense of Belonging:

- **Yvonne Morris**, Academic Advisor and Associate Chair, Director of Undergraduate Studies in [MSU's Department of African American and African Studies](#)

For the area of Developing Wellbeing:

- **Laura Yares**, Assistant Professor in [MSU's Department of Religious Studies](#)

“This year’s recipients all demonstrated a commitment to fostering personal, academic, and cultural exploration while supporting students in articulating and achieving their goals through a commitment to continuously reviewing, refining, and adapting policies, procedures, and practices to better support students in each opportunity area for student success,” wrote [Mark Largent](#), Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, in the “[Recognizing our student success champions](#)” article published by Undergraduate Education. “Just as we know that we indicate what we value by what we measure, we also demonstrate our values in rewarding the work and the commitment of colleagues who center students and student success. In that way, awards like these are not just about the recipients; they are also exhibitions of our community’s values. Thank you again to our student success champions, to their nominators, and to the committees who read through the many nominations to choose this year’s award recipients.”

The awards were presented at MSU’s annual Student Success Summit, which is an opportunity for faculty, advisors, and staff to connect at the end of the academic year on topics that support their student success work with an eye toward the future.

This year's Student Success Summit took place over two days, May 7 and 8, with the first day being in-person and the second day being virtual. The Summit explored how faculty and staff continue to reform MSU using the Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success and celebrated impactful contributions across campus, including honoring those who received awards as part of the Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success Recognition Program.



Top left photo: Maggie Harris receiving her award from Amy Martin and Renata Opoczynski. Top right photo: Victoria Morris receiving her award from Amy Martin and Renata Opoczynski. Bottom left photo: Kirk Domer receiving his award from Renata Opoczynski and Amy Martin. Bottom right photo: Pat Arnold receiving their award from Renata Opoczynski and Mark Largent. *(Photos by Sarah Schultz, Director of the Spartan Experience Record)*

“For me, the Student Success Summit marks the official start of summer,” Largent wrote. “Last year at Summit, we gave informal recognition to some colleagues on campus who made substantial contributions to student success. This year, we made it an official tradition with more formal recognition organized around the Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success.”

The keynote speaker for this year's Student Success Summit also is a member of the MSU College of Arts & Letters community. The speaker was [Nick Sanders](#), Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Oakland University and Michigan State University alum with a Ph.D. in Writing and Rhetoric from [MSU's Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures](#).



Student Success Award recipients Laura Yares (left) and Yvonne Morris (right).

For more information and a full list of all the award recipients of this year's Five Opportunity Areas of Student Success Recognition Program, see the article, "[Recognizing our student success champions](#)," published on the [Undergraduate Education website](#).