

I'd like to nominate Paul Gaskins, Library Media Specialist, for the Outstanding Classified Staff Award. In the course of working with Paul since I joined Cañada three years ago, I have come to admire his mostly quiet demeanor.

See, most of the time, someone with a quiet demeanor would be overlooked. However, I've noticed Paul's exemplary service to students, faculty and staff at the Library. Paul will often go out of his way to help out students, that includes walking them down to the correct location if they're lost or making introductions to staff in other departments if they need a personal touch. Often, from 5-8 PM, Paul is usually the only staff member around to help students as most other services close by 5PM, and he always does it in a good mood. If a faculty member requests staying with their class past our 8 PM closing time, he'll make sure they know which way to exit safely and make sure they're fine when he leaves for the night.

Paul demonstrates commitment to quality work and continual Improvement in his field in a variety of ways. Paul, a native English speaker, often practices his Spanish with our Spanish speaking students. We have a great time speaking in Spanish as colleagues and he always practices any new words I teach him. Last year, when I suggested our department take the Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®) in order to find our blindspots, some people declined. Paul didn't, and instead took the inventory and then participated eagerly in the results discussion.

At Cañada, Paul also serves as the Classified Senate Treasurer. He also serves as representative in the district's All SMCCD Libraries meetings.

Lastly, being in charge of our Library student workers, Paul fosters a positive learning and working environment which makes them feel very welcome at work. He is sensitive to student worker's needs, like when he found out one of our students was hit in the head during a game and still came to work with a bad headache. Paul took the time to make sure the student knew about concussions and sent him home. He's also our one person social committee! He always knows whose birthdays are coming up, including students, and will get cake and pass a card around to celebrate them.

So, you see, in his own mostly quiet demeanor, Paul would be overlooked, while in reality, his actions scream outstanding staff!