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Section 1: Items to Note and Criteria for Team Award

Award Amounts

Individual Awards (per semester)	Team Awards (per semester, per individual)
$500.00	$50.00

Criteria for I Am COD Team Award

Nominators choose the criterion that <u>best describes</u> why this team is being nominated: (*multiple criteria may be selected*)

Core Values | Service Excellence | Exceptional Performance

Section 2: List of Team Nominees

Team (Nominee)	Team Members		Nominator(s)
Reference Support Services	- Justin Cross - Sally Grenzow - Angela Jordan - Melissa Lachcik - Mary Laffey	- Brandon Neary - Issabel Pantaleon - Jenna Schwartz - Emma Yahr	Kadet Aleks (Library)
Procurement Services Team	- Kevin Casey - Amber Kalish	- Lisa Erl - Eric Frick	Theresa Dobersztyn (Procurement Services)
STEM Division Support Staff	- Stephanie Kackert - Marie Tenzinger	Brittney Edmonson	Kate Szetela (STEM)
Learning Technologies	- Michelle Whitman - Becky Benkert - Gabriele Frahm - Daniel McCallum	- Timothy Sweeney - Lara Tompkins - Christina Sabo - Lindsey Gilger	Christine Monnier (Sociology)
Insurance Committee	- Mark Yahoudy - Jennifer Butler - Ami Chambers - Larinda Dixon - Anne Guenther - Rebecca Harrington	- Laurette Jorgensen - Derek Jensen - Christopher Leli - Mary Beth Leone - Joe Massa - David Virgilio	Jennifer Butler (Social/Behavioral Sciences & Library)
Information Technology	- Stella Styrczula, - Dawn Frison-Cook - Joe Brenner - Roger Brunelle - Michael Mohring - Mike Wolkowitz	- Carmen Abernathy - Ed Cheeks - Joseph Houdek - Damin Keenan, Damin - Caro Uhl-Alba	Dawn Frison-Cook (Information Technology)

Section 3: Nomination Submissions

When was the team formed and/or what was/is the main purpose of this team? Describe the project/process/initiative that this team collaborated on. Describe the impact on students/employees/community.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Reference Support Services	Core Values, Exceptional Performance, Service Excellence I cannot speak highly enough about the Library's Reference Support Services team. They consistently provide excellent service at our Library reference desks, supporting students, faculty, staff, and community members with their information needs. The Library is open 80 hours a week, and Reference Support folks are there, all 80 of them. They also work in multiple modalities, sometimes simultaneously. Patrons might call our reference desks or send an email. They might walk up in person, or they might use our Live Chat service. Whatever our community chooses, this team is ready. What does it mean to support all these people with their information needs? I'll give you a few examples, all things our Reference Assistants do. Reference Assistants work with students who are just beginning their research, and help set them on the right path, helping them build the skills and confidence they need to succeed academically. They recommend Library resources that are appropriate to the wide variety of subjects COD teaches-- everything from Architecture to Business to Nursing to Psychology-- and empower students to use them. Reference Assistants work with patrons who are frustrated, anxious, and confused about assignments, and handle those high emotions with empathy and respect while guiding patrons to the information or resources they need. When students are struggling, online materials are down, or the way students use our spaces changes, this team shares those findings back with the rest of the Library so that we can be responsive. This work is crucial to providing equitable access to educational materials to support our college. And that's just the beginning. Reference Assistants our patrons locate specific titles, and process Inter-Library Loan requests to connect our patrons with books and articles beyond our local collection. They work with community members and help them find academic materials they don't need a COD login to access, or their next movie to watch over the weekend. They help everyone navigate the labyrinthine halls of SRC, and create documentation to help our community understand how to use our services. And they do it all while being professional, knowledgeable, and kind. In addition, the Reference Support Services team makes possible the daily operations of the Library by working with Library faculty on ever-changing projects, and enrich the Library experience for everyone by curating timely and interesting book displays with relevance to our community. I could go on. Instead, I'll end this message here: our Reference Support Services team are stars who embody the best of COD.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Procurement Services Team	Service Excellence

	The end of the Fiscal Year is always very hectic with year- end purchases, bids and request for proposals, new vendor intakes and contracts for the Procurement Services Team. The staff goes above and beyond while trying to meet their customer's needs in the most timely and efficient manner. The stress level is extremely elevated during this time, while my team does an exceptional job by going above and beyond what is normally expected in order to meet customer needs. The Team works together in order to ensure that the requested procurement services are completed in the most efficient manner while strictly adhering to the College's Administrative Procedures that govern procurement. I am extremely proud to have these four (4) dedicated employees on the Procurement Services Team.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
STEM Division Support Staff	Service Excellence The STEM Division support staff has demonstrated exceptional resilience and unwavering commitment to service excellence during a period of significant staffing transitions. Despite serving one of the largest divisions at the College, the team consistently ensures that classes and operations run seamlessly—often performing what can only be described as daily miracles to support faculty and students. They are frequently the first to assist students who arrive with academic, personal, or procedural concerns, and they respond with courtesy, patience, and respect—even in tense or emotionally charged situations. Their sincere empathy and ability to anticipate and exceed students' expectations exemplify the College value of respect and the mission to enrich and empower our communities. The staff proactively seeks professional development, including training on emerging tools such as AI, to enhance productivity and elevate the student experience. This is a highly collaborative team where each member supports the others. The STEM Division support staff can always be counted on to give their very best and to pursue excellence in all they do, consistently going above and beyond to provide outstanding customer service.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Learning Technologies	Core Values, Exceptional Performance, Service Excellence The college is at the end of its transition to the Ultra version of our Learning Management System, Blackboard. This has been a massive effort and the Learning Technologies team has been at its forefront and mostly responsible for its success. Since the Ultra pilot, conducted in Spring 2024, to the end of the transition period at the end of Fall 2025, the Learning Technologies team has conducted hundreds of hours of training for thousands of people. The training has been offered from early mornings to evenings, in addition to multiple sessions offered at kickoff, as well as hours of open lab available to the entire COD community. They have offered training face-to-face, online, on Zoom, and conducted group-specific workshops, as well as meeting faculty individually to help them transition on their own terms. In addition, the LT team has completely revamped its website and conducted a major overhaul of its Knowledge Base collection of articles. And through it all, the LT team has never lost its positive attitude and dedication to supporting faculty of all levels of technological skills. This transition to Ultra was a massive effort, that required all-hands on deck from this team. We only engage in this kind of institutional effort every decade or so, which makes the accomplishment of the LT team all the more

	remarkable.
	For this, and their continual service excellence, they more than deserve this award.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Insurance Committee	Core Values, Exceptional Performance, Service Excellence
	I would like to nominate the Insurance Committee for this award. This year, the committee rose to a significant challenge with a shared sense of purpose and responsibility. Facing the highest projected health insurance increase in several years—13.8%—the committee worked together to recommend practical, fair solutions that limited the increase to under 7% while keeping our benefits largely intact.
	Each member approached every discussion with care and thoughtfulness, taking time to understand the details and make balanced decisions that served all employees. Throughout the summer, the committee met frequently, stayed in close contact with HR, our benefits broker, and the Faculty Senate, and collaborated with honesty and trust to manage an especially tough year for insurance and health care.
	In the end, the committee succeeded in minimizing changes while maintaining strong coverage. Members then reached out across the campus to help employees understand the updates and ensure a smooth transition.
	I had the privilege of serving alongside this remarkable group, and I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished together. The Insurance Committee truly embodies the spirit of our college—working with integrity, respect, and care to serve our community and one another.

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Information Technology	Service Excellence
	On any given day from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week, COD students, employees, administrators, faculty, College leadership, community members, and constituents enter one of 13 buildings on the Main Campus and/or one of four Centers to take a class, go to work, teach students, meet old and new friends, gather for celebrations, commemorations, dedications, the list is endless. I would like to nominate one common thread that runs throughout: the use of technology. From mimeographs and fax machines to networks and Etrieve, our information technology department works in concert with every single department across the campus and Centers to keep the Chapparal tech life moving forward. From wireless to WI-FI, information technology keeps Chappy life flowing.
	When I started my second iteration of working at COD, everything was ready for me to go on day one, technology-wise. I realize that's not the experience for every employee or student, but rest assured, there is someone always at the help desk ready to assist, even after many of us have gone to bed. Overnight staff assures that networks keep running overnight so a student can log in at 2 a.m. to get an assignment done before it's due at 8:30 a.m.
	Admittedly, it's not the most forward-facing or prominent department, but like the endocrine system, it's not always noticed until something happens. I know that the members and leaders of the IT department are very proud of being the endocrine system of the Chapparal body.

| | Somewhere in Dist. 502 right now, there is someone who is deciding whether or not to take a class, re-enroll to get their degree, filling out an application for a job, or even deciding whether or not they want to attend the matinee or the evening performance at the MAC.

IT makes it happen 24/7. No matter the time of day or night, the information technology department stand ready and willing to help. And for the record, I hereby affirm and decree that this nomination was written without using any AI tools |