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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 best describes 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)	
Financial Aid	Nicole LaCognata Sheetal Patel Jennifer Stewart Pat Ackerman Naomi Barr Tam Charles Mark George	Omar Gordon Jenny Madsen Ivette Ortiz Hannah Reed Lisa Schmidt Adrian Boyd	Amy Calhoun, Marketing
Library	Kat Daniel Amy Falkenberg Penpark (Penny) Wilson		Julia Venetis, Library
Nursing and Health Sciences	Pamela Dinucci Monica Coronado Colleen Gonzales Jessica Lang Emily Shinn	Margaret Lippert Kelly Diederich Julia Perez Tandra Rutledge	Jared Deane, Nursing and Health Sciences
IT, Records, Registration, Accounts Receivable, Print Services and Mail Services (collaboration team)	Paul Annarella David Hamler Lisa Krok Michelle Resnick Juan Barraza Zapata Teri Bica Alison Butler Kim Dietrich Brittney Edmondson Brittany Giron Mike Guarino Dianne Hengler Pam Jahntz	Jon Powell Cathy Yanez Bob Chasteen Mike Cicero Chuck Hels Rob Orlando Lori Steigerwald Regina Wisemiller Lori Ebbole Jill Pierson Tina Brackmann Debbie Henderson Luisa Maka	Michelle Resnick, Finance
Multimedia Services	Christopher Gekas Sal Garcia Corey Kile		Anna Campbell, Nursing and Health Sciences
Admissions and Outreach	Angela Nackovic Rio Almaria Evan Harvey Iris Castellanos	Edward Ortega Jeff Walker	Rolando Martinez, Admissions and Outreach

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Athletics	Trevor Cipriano Dean Pauley Peter Hopson JR Niklos Nolan Bernat	Ja Vontae Hence Tom Trieb Sushane Kumar Joel Beard	Matthew Rahn, Athletics
Financial Affairs	Maki Jursinic Tiana Baymon	Sheila Wagner Grace Wahler	Andrew Luce & Marcia Frank, Institutional Advancement

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
Financial Aid	<p>Service Excellence</p> <p>The rollout of FAFSA this year presented significant challenges for students, parents and institutions alike. Despite these obstacles, the FAFSA Lab team demonstrated unwavering commitment and resilience. This year, amidst the complexities of the new "simplified" FAFSA process, our FAFSA Lab team rose to the occasion. They patiently guided first-time applicants and experienced filers through the hurdles of this unfamiliar terrain. Their dedication was evident in the multiple visits some registrants required to complete the process successfully. Despite setbacks and technical issues causing incomplete submissions, the FAFSA Lab team maintained an unwavering "can do" spirit, supporting students and parents through every step of the journey. In a year where perseverance was paramount, the diligence of our FAFSA Lab staff was instrumental. Their support likely prevented numerous students from abandoning their pursuit of higher education. For their remarkable resilience and unwavering commitment to our students' success, I wholeheartedly nominate the FAFSA Lab Team for the I AM COD team award.</p>

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Team	Nomination Submission Text
Library	<p data-bbox="390 215 1016 240">Core Value, Service Excellence, Exceptional Performance</p> <p data-bbox="390 280 1940 833">The Distribution and Reserves Team in the Library was originally created to develop, maintain and facilitate access to the Library's Course Reserves collection, as well as equipment distributed college-wide for staff and faculty use. The COVID pandemic expanded the mission of this team to include lending hundreds of laptops and other technology to students each term. This crucial and highly successful initiative ensured that students were able to continue their education throughout a shift to a remote learning environment and continues today, helping students maintain access to their courses and other resources across campus. Throughout the last 4 years, Kat Daniel, Amy Falkenberg and Penny Wilson have continued to develop and grow student technology lending; collaborating with other programs around campus, soliciting feedback from students, and working closely with the IT department to continue developing efficient strategies to get technology into the hands of those students who need it. This team currently oversees an inventory of more than 1000 laptop computers, 640 Chromebooks and 150 Hotspots for various College programs. To do this efficiently and responsibly, the Library's Distribution and Reserves team must anticipate demand to ensure sufficient devices are available when needed - communicating with various departments who impact their processes and creating a communication plan that ensures the devices are returned when expected. Kat, Amy and Penny evaluate the success of their processes at the end of each term and make adjustments that they believe will create improvements for the coming semester. They have done all of this with great consideration of and attention to the needs of our students. Through tracking student demand for access to technology and thoughtful attention to their processes, students continue to borrow the laptops, Chromebooks and hotspots that facilitate their learning and in turn, promote student success.</p>

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Team	Nomination Submission Text
Nursing and Health Sciences	<p data-bbox="390 269 674 297">Exceptional Performance</p> <p data-bbox="390 334 1934 820">This team serves as the support staff in the Nursing and Health Science Division. To a person, who has gone above and beyond the call to provide excellent service and support to our students as well as working collaboratively to update and standardize the Division Office. Our Student Success Coaches have worked with the Administrative Assistants and Program Support Specialists to create a central repository of "points of contact" which allows students to be directly guided to student support services. This has been helpful to our students because most of their time is spent in the Health and Sciences Center, they may not be as familiar with the SSC as most students. This service has allowed students to utilize all of the student services that are afforded them through the college. Similarly, the Division Recruiter has also worked with the rest of the Division staff to gather data, fliers and other resources that are needed to provide information on our programs to prospective students in addition to making the community aware of the program offerings that the NHS has. The Administrative Assistants and Program Support Specialists have been instrumental in supporting the Dean and Director of Nursing through a number of accreditations. They have provided necessary data to the Program Chairs and other supports needed for successful in-person meetings. One accreditor mentioned that they have never seen such support for a program. This effort of this group has allowed our programs to be re-accredited, increased student retention due to the fact we can get wraparound services to the students more efficiently and contributed to NHS having increased applicants and enrollment. They are to be applauded for their efforts.</p>

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IT, Records, Registration, Accounts Receivable, Print Services and Mail Services (collaboration team)	<p>Service Excellence, Exceptional Performance</p> <p>For those familiar with the intricate dance of IRS Form 1098-T in higher education, a collective sigh punctuates the mere mention of it. It's not just paperwork; it's a labyrinth of complexity with stakes that can't be overstated. Make a misstep, and you're navigating the treacherous waters of IRS fines – a tale all too common in the world of academia. Every student at the College feels the impact of this bureaucratic ballet. Enter College of DuPage, where a dynamic team of experts collaborates year-round, crafting a narrative of seamless efficiency in the face of this paperwork juggernaut. These aren't just departments; they're a symphony of precision – Accounts Receivable, Cashier's Office, IT, Records, Registration, Print Services, and Mail Services, each playing their part with virtuoso finesse. In a move that redefines the norm, the College achieved the unimaginable this year. Brace yourself for this plot twist – the 1098-T forms were in students' hands by the second week of January. Unprecedented? Absolutely. This isn't a one-time spectacle; it's a continuous performance. Throughout the year, these departments harmonize efforts, reaching out to students, advocating for electronic forms, and ensuring their social security details are up to date. It's not just about avoiding hiccups; it's about elevating the student experience to a level where service excellence isn't just a buzzword but a living reality. While other institutions grapple with the headaches of bureaucratic entanglements, College of DuPage stands as a beacon of collaborative brilliance, showcasing what it truly means to deliver exceptional performance in higher education. Cheers to rewriting the narrative and setting a new standard for excellence!</p>

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Multimedia Services	<p>Service Excellence, Exceptional Performance</p> <p>Multimedia Services worked with the SURGT program on multiple projects over the last year and a half. A Career Ready podcast, a COD cribs video, and many SURGT skills videos were planned, filmed, and edited by this incredible team. The podcast can be accessed through the SURGT webpage and offers students a unique opportunity to learn about the career possibilities within surgical technology, along with skills needed to succeed in the profession. The COD cribs video is available on YouTube and is used regularly during high school outreach events. It is a fun way to inform students about our programs and inspire them to learn more about healthcare programs at COD. The SURGT skill videos took a remarkable amount of patience and effort from Chris Gekas and his team. The videos are the first of their kind, there are very few accurate surgical skill videos, and they are all available for free access on YouTube. It was essential the videos were precise explaining and demonstrating surgical skills. Chris was patient and attentive, as we sent multiple edits and corrections his way. The finished videos are beautiful. They will help our students perfect their surgical skills before entering the operating room and will also serve as a valuable tool for hospitals and surgery centers to improve the sterile technique of current employees. I can't thank this team enough for their creativity and expertise. It has been a pleasure working with them all!</p>

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Team	Nomination Submission Text
Admissions and Outreach	<p data-bbox="390 215 596 240">Service Excellence</p> <p data-bbox="390 280 1923 513">The current team, with its members, was formed in January of 2024. The main purpose of this team is to go out to the community to share more information regarding COD's offerings, and generate interest and applications for upcoming terms. Being in this role and department, they must consistently collaborate with each other and with other COD departments to put forth initiatives that will yield bringing in new students to our campus. Examples of those events include: Open House, Naperville North Takeover, Campus Visit Days, College Fairs, etc. The outreach and connections they build with prospective students, COD partners, and community partners help consistently bring in new students and help them start their path towards a career. Without their work, and effort, we would not have the increasing enrollment that we have been experiencing.</p>

Team	Nomination Submission Text
Athletics	<p data-bbox="390 621 674 646">Exceptional Performance</p> <p data-bbox="390 686 1923 989">These men make up the football coaching staff led by Head Coach Matthew Rahn. Outside of winning the NJCAA National Championship the past three years (3 in a row) for the only 3 Championships in the programs history dating back to 1967, they have set the record (2021 team) for most football players earning an athletic scholarship to a 4 year school in program history, rebroke the record (2022 team) and think that this past falls team could reset the record for the 3rd straight year. These men lead these student athletes on an off the field helping provide them the tools, mentorship and direction to not only be successful student-athletes but to be better brothers, son, husbands (eventually) and more importantly, humans. The success this program has had over the last 3 years in unheard of and needs to be recognized. Since Coach Rahn's staff have been together (during COVID in November of 2020), 95 and counting young men have used the College of DuPage's football program to earn opportunities to 4-year schools.</p>

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Team	Nomination Submission Text
Financial Affairs	<p>Core Values, Service Excellence, Exceptional Performance</p> <p>The Grants Accounting team of Maki Jursinic (Senior Accountant), Grace Wahler, Tiana Baymon, and Sheila Wagner, embodies both the mission and vision of College of DuPage in every aspect of their work, and continually goes above and beyond to support the numerous efforts of grant-funded projects on campus. This team of four is responsible for handling the financial lifecycle of institutional grant projects, including pre-award budget development for proposals, and post-award budget management, with regular reporting requirements, budget modifications, expense tracking, and much more. Core Values: The Grants Accounting team exhibits unparalleled professionalism and flexibility in their work. Whether facing the daunting challenge of a tight two-week proposal deadline or having to work with obscure information when developing a grant budget, they always provide a dependable and high-quality solution. Their commitment to integrity, respect, and responsibility shines through, as they navigate even the most complex of situations and grant awards ranging from a several thousand dollars to several million. By consistently delivering high-quality service to all they work with, they exemplify COD's Core Values. Service Excellence: COD grant project directors have consistently given high praise to the team for their exceptional service and support of grant projects. Even during the busiest of months, they will always make time for anyone and will go above and beyond to assist colleagues in navigating the complex accounting or purchasing processes. It's never an inconvenience for them. They play a crucial role in keeping grant projects fiscally on track through regular check-ins and proactive solutions to spend down grants to the last dollar. Their dedication to service excellence has significantly enhanced the college's reputation and has led to the successful implementation of numerous grant-funded programs that have had a direct impact on student success. Exceptional Performance: The team of four is responsible for handling well over 40 grants annually, amounting to at least \$12 million. The number and amount of grant funding has grown significantly over the past five years, and the team has handled the increased workload and responsibilities with grace. Their collaborative approach ensures grant projects operate smoothly and manage any setbacks with solutions that keep the project moving forward. Their institutional knowledge is key to creating highly competitive proposals and successfully managing award funds with stringent requirements. Their exceptional performance with these grant projects ensures full support of initiatives for all COD Strategic Pillars by dozens of COD departments. We are excited to nominate this well-deserving team to receive the recognition they deserve for all they do to enable COD to successfully carry out its mission with excellence.</p>