

Regents' Academic Advisor Award (Community College)
Truckee Meadows Community College

Natalie Brown, Ph.D.
Program Director

Natalie joined TMCC's advising team in 2013. She was born in California but considers Reno home. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Spanish from the University of Nevada, Reno and completed her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah. She was fortunate to have so many great mentors help her navigate her own higher education experience through Upward Bound and TRiO Scholars, that they inspired her to continue working with students. As an Academic Advisor and MBTI® and Strong® certified practitioner, she is committed to helping students identify their interests and achieve their academic and personal goals. Prior to joining TMCC, she held various advising positions at Salt Lake Community College as well as the University of Utah. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, skiing, traveling, concert-going, and finding time to relax.

UNLV 2016 Regents Academic Advisor Award, Undergraduate Nominee:

Ms. Stacy Shapin, Assistant Director of Advising, UNLV College of Fine Arts

Originally from Flagstaff, AZ, Stacy Shapin earned her M.Ed. in Higher Education from UNLV in 2014. She began working at UNLV in 2007, where she was the Office Manager for the Department of Music. In that role, she had the opportunity to advise many students through that program. In March 2013 she became an academic advisor in the College of Fine Arts Advising Center and now works with students across the college. Stacy's nominator is a peer in the advising center which speaks to how highly Stacy is thought of in her unit. She serves on several committees that work constantly to improve advising but also has interests in the interpersonal interactions and recently presented on the many strengths and diverse needs of introvert students and professionals in higher education. Her students hold her in high regard for her support which may be pushing them sometimes when they need it to truly meet their full potential. Stacy lives in Las Vegas with her husband and daughter and enjoys a good book or movie, spending an afternoon outside, singing, playing the piano and musical theatre. UNLV is proud to nominate Ms. Stacy Shapin for the 2016 Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award.

UNLV 2016 Regents Academic Advisor Award, Graduate Nominee:

Dr. James Busser, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration

James Busser received his doctorate from the University of Illinois and joined UNLV in 1987. Since 1990, Dr. Busser has served as Graduate Coordinator and in 2011 assumed that role for the Doctoral Program in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. He has chaired eight doctoral student dissertations, 11 master's theses, and 45 master's professional papers and been an active participant in all Graduate College recruitment and showcase student events. In 2000, he received the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Award from the Hotel College and was honored with the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award from the UNLV Graduate College in 2002. Dr. Busser is known for how much he cares for all students. His incredible mentorship motivates and encourages them. He cares about them as people and as scholars. He also continues his scholarship and as seen on his C.V. has several refereed articles in review. As you can see from the number of students who wrote in support of his nomination, Dr. Busser is exactly the type of mentor and advisor we want for our students. UNLV is proud to nominate Dr. James Busser for the 2016 Graduate Academic Advisor Award.