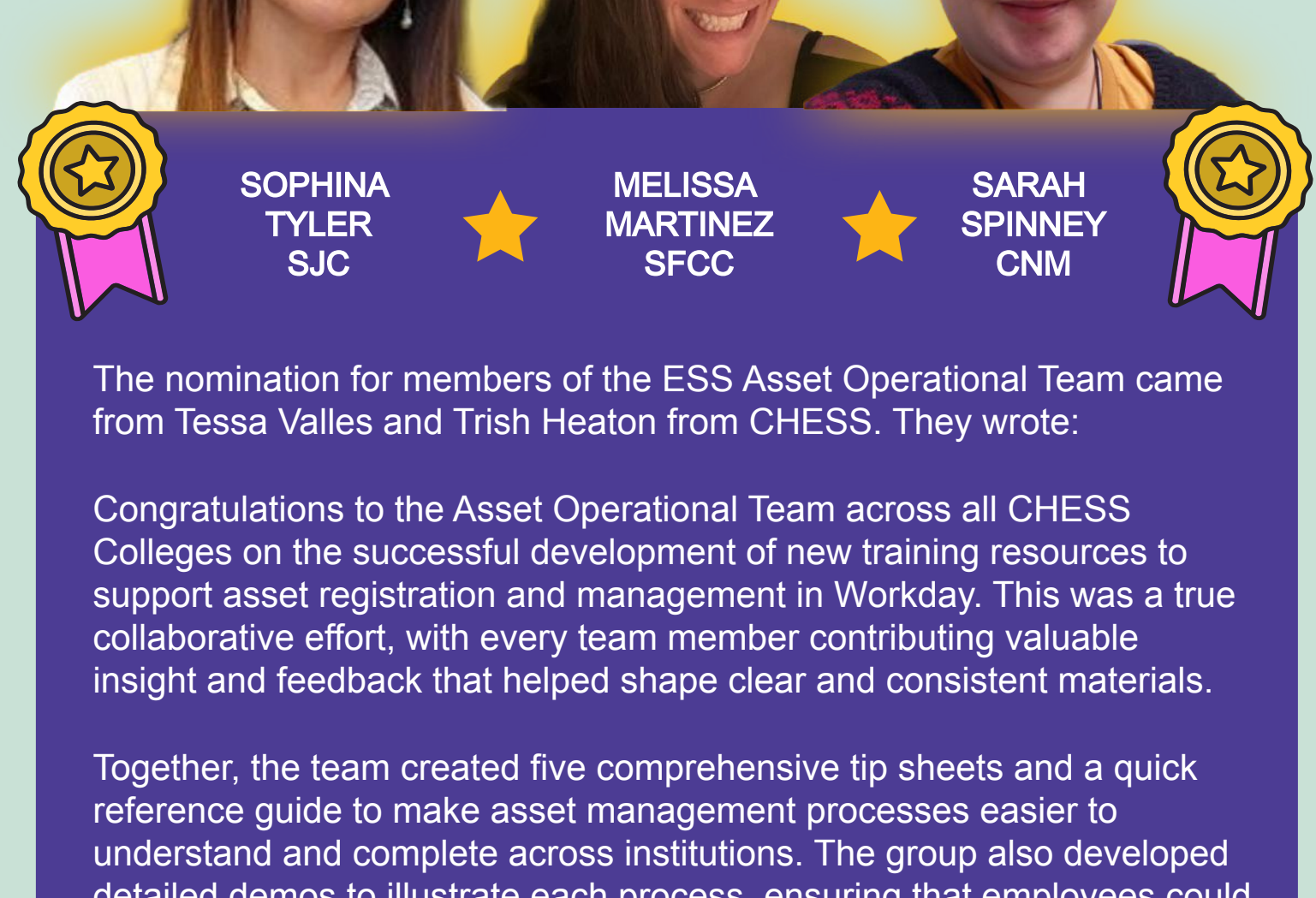


CHES Connection



November 2025, Issue 2

Congratulations to Our Newest CHES Superstars!



SOPHINA TYLER
SJC

MELISSA MARTINEZ
SFCC

SARAH SPINNEY
CNM

The nomination for members of the ESS Asset Operational Team came from Tessa Valles and Trish Heaton from CHES. They wrote:

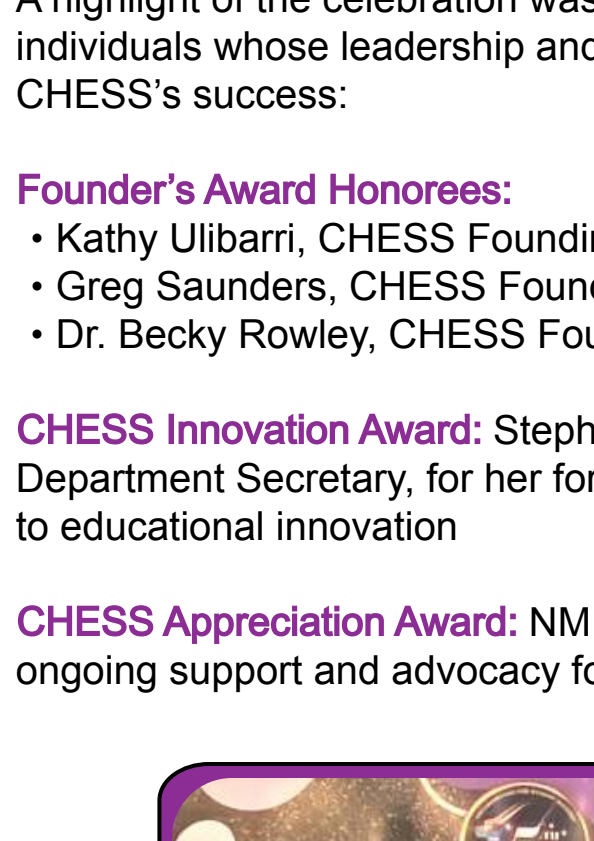
Congratulations to the Asset Operational Team across all CHES Colleges on the successful development of new training resources to support asset registration and management in Workday. This was a true collaborative effort, with every team member contributing valuable insight and feedback that helped shape clear and consistent materials.

Together, the team created five comprehensive tip sheets and a quick reference guide to make asset management processes easier to understand and complete across institutions. The group also developed detailed demos to illustrate each process, ensuring that employees could confidently complete their asset-related tasks.

We would like to nominate Sarah Spinney from CNM, Melissa Martinez from SFCC, and Sophina Tyler from SJC for their outstanding collaboration and leadership throughout this project. In addition to their contributions to content development, they volunteered to create and present demos that showcased each process in action—the team visualize and refine key steps along the way. Their initiative, teamwork, and commitment to quality exemplify the collaborative CHES spirit and a shared dedication to continuous improvement.

CHES Superstars are individuals on project implementation teams, member college employees, or CHES employees, who are recognized based on the CHES Values of Collaboration, Honesty, Equity, Sustainability, and Student Success.

CHES Celebrates Five Years of Collaboration for Student Success



Anniversary Event Highlights Achievements and Honors Legislative Champions

The CHES 5th Anniversary Celebration, **Collaborating for Student Success**, kicked off on November 14, 2025, at the Santa Fe Higher Education Center in Santa Fe, NM.

The event was a resounding success, drawing NM Legislative Champions, CHES Board of Directors, College Trustees, Member College Presidents, CHES Leadership, past and present Implementation Team Members, CHES employees, and key partners for an inspiring afternoon dedicated to reflecting on five years of transformative progress.

Dr. Becky Rowley, President of Santa Fe Community College and Founding Chair of the CHES Board, opened the program with a heartfelt welcome. Dr. Rowley highlighted CHES's journey, emphasizing the power of community and cross-institutional collaboration in advancing student outcomes. Her remarks set a tone of gratitude and forward-thinking optimism that resonated throughout the event.

Dr. Shaun McAlmont, CHES CEO, followed with an introduction to CHES's mission, tracing its growth from a visionary idea to a robust, collaborative platform serving New Mexico's higher education institutions. Dr. McAlmont praised the collective efforts that have shaped CHES, noting the organization's commitment to student success through shared services and innovation.

The program featured special remarks from New Mexico State Senator Linda Trujillo, who has been a steadfast advocate for educational advancement in the state. She reflected on her own educational journey which began at a community college. Senator Trujillo discussed the importance of legislative support for initiatives like CHES which are both on time and on budget and she commended the organization for its enduring impact.

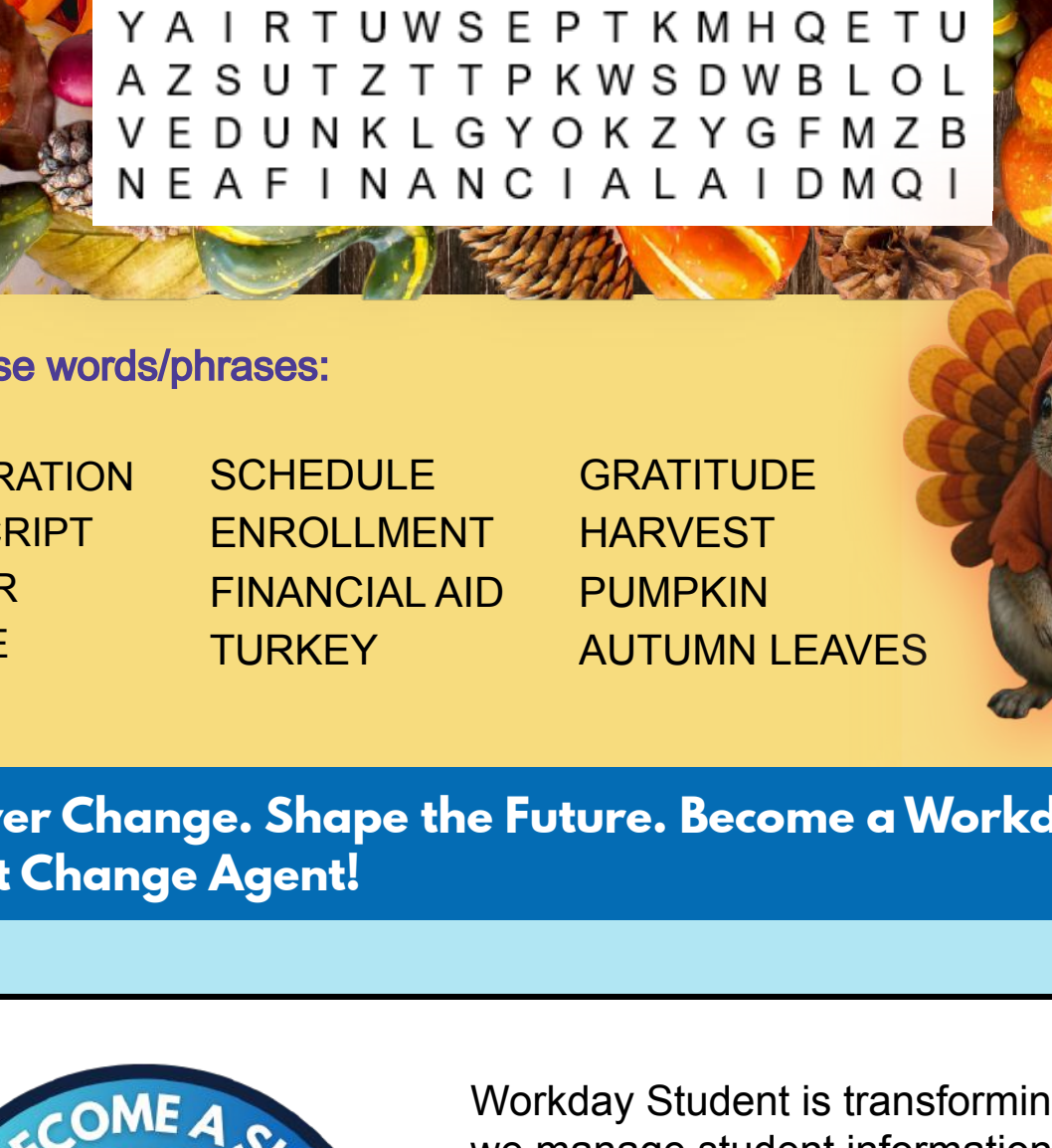
A highlight of the celebration was the awards ceremony, honoring the individuals whose leadership and vision have been instrumental to CHES's success:

Founder's Award Honorees:

- Kathy Ulibarri, CHES Founding CEO
- Greg Saunders, CHES Founding COO
- Dr. Becky Rowley, CHES Founding Board Chair

CHES Innovation Award: Stephanie Rodriguez, NM Higher Education Department Secretary, for her forward-thinking leadership and dedication to educational innovation

CHES Appreciation Award: NM Senator Linda Trujillo, recognized for her ongoing support and advocacy for higher education in New Mexico



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Becky Rowley, President of Santa Fe Community College and CHES Board Chair, NM Senator Linda Trujillo, and Dr. Shaun McAlmont, CHES CEO.

The afternoon continued with CHES Leadership discussing "CHES Collaboration and Progress," featuring Dr. Shaun McAlmont (CEO), Dr. Mindy Watson (CAO), and Adrienne Griego (CFO). They shared key milestones from the past five years, including the successful implementation of shared services, the launch of innovative student support programs, and the strength of partnerships across our member colleges.

The celebration closed with remarks from Dr. Shaun McAlmont that supported the significance of the organization's accomplishments and the promise of continued innovation. He called upon all attendees to keep the spirit of collaboration alive as CHES advances.

The CHES 5th Anniversary Celebration was more than a commemoration; it was a testament to the collective power of vision, partnership, and unwavering dedication to student success.

Congratulations to all honorees and to the entire CHES community for five inspiring years—and many more to come.

San Juan College (SJC) Departments Unite for Full-Day Collaboration on End-to-End Testing

A lot of work goes into ensuring that all parts of Workday Student, like data setup and workflows, function smoothly together before the system goes live. This work is known as **End-to-End (E2E) testing**. End-to-end testing on a Workday Student implementation checks that the entire system works as intended by simulating real tasks and processes that students, faculty, and staff would perform from start to finish.



San Juan College (SJC) departments came together for a dedicated full-day collaboration session on Friday, October 17, focused on building comprehensive End-to-End (E2E) testing stories to support the college's Workday implementation. What began as a departmental effort quickly expanded into a cross-college initiative after the SIS Champion encouraged an all-hands approach.

Sequestered from daily office distractions and fueled by coffee, conversation, and a catered lunch, the team worked side-by-side to design "stories" that reflected real student experiences from start to finish. Using a shared Smartsheet (spreadsheet), participants identified variables such as student type, credits, residency, and payment methods, transforming these into detailed testing steps and scenarios.

By day's end, the group had created an impressive 1,500 lines of tests and steps, marking a major milestone in the E2E process. The event not only advanced testing readiness but also strengthened collaboration, innovation, and camaraderie across departments, setting the stage for continued progress in future working sessions.

Autumn Word Search

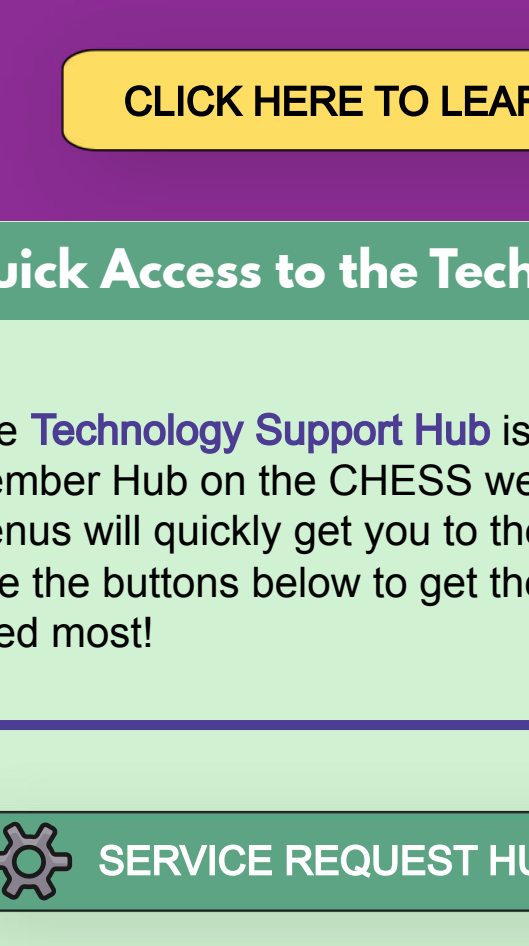
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 A Z I S U T T T P K W S D B L O L
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Find these words/phrases:

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|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| REGISTRATION | SCHEDULE | GRATITUDE |
| TRANSRIPT | ENROLLMENT | HARVEST |
| ADVISOR | FINANCIAL AID | PUMPKIN |
| COURSE | TURKEY | AUTUMN LEAVES |



Empower Change. Shape the Future. Become a Workday Student Change Agent!



Workday Student is transforming how we manage student information, streamline processes, and support success across campus. To make this transformation a success, we need dedicated change agents—member college employees who care deeply about making a positive impact and helping their colleagues adapt and thrive in this new environment.

Change agents play a vital role in connecting people, information, and innovation at each member college. They listen, share updates, answer questions, and help their departments understand what's changing and why. Most importantly, they ensure that everyone feels supported and confident as we transition to Workday Student.

Why become a Change Agent?

- Be among the first to learn about new processes and tools in Workday Student.
- Influence how your department adopts and benefits from the new system.
- Strengthen teamwork and enhance campus-wide collaboration.
- Build valuable leadership, communication, and project collaboration skills.
- Make a lasting difference by helping your peers embrace new ways of working.

Your involvement matters.

By becoming a change agent, you'll help us move forward together—bridging the gap between the technical rollout and the people who use Workday every day. With your insight and influence, the Workday Student implementation will be smoother, faster, and more successful for everyone.

Become a change agent to help lead the way to a more connected and efficient campus experience!

[Click Here for the Mission Change Agent Volunteer Application](#)

Join Us for CHES CHAT with Shaun McAlmont, CHES CEO

Come chat with CHES and get the scoop, straight from the source.

Use the button below to join the live session on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 12 Noon (Mountain Time)**

[Click Here to Join CHES CHAT on Wednesday, December 3, 2025](#)

Do you have a topic or question for CHES that you'd like to discuss during CHES CHAT? Send it before the session to info@ches.edu

CHES Jobs

Now Hiring

- ✓ Data Reporting Analyst
- ✓ Human Resources Generalist

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE POSITIONS](#)

Quick Access to the Technology Support Hub

The **Technology Support Hub** is located within the Member Hub on the CHES website. The pull-down menu will quickly get you to the right information. Use the buttons below to get the information you need most!

SERVICE REQUEST HUB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a New Service Request Ticket • Follow Up on a Service Request 	TENANT INFORMATION HUB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Reports by Functional Area • Reporting Tips & Tricks
REPORTING HUB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Maintenance • Tenant Management • Current Outages (Coming Soon) 	

Your Feedback Is Important!

We want to hear from you—yes, you!

Whether you've got brilliant ideas, helpful suggestions, or just want to give CHESSTER the Squirrel a virtual high-five, this is your chance to speak up. Your feedback helps us make CHES even better for everyone. So go nuts and drop us a line—CHESSTER'S all ears (and tail)!

[CLICK HERE TO LEAVE FEEDBACK](#)

Contact CHES

Do you have any questions? Do you have suggestions for new stories?

CONTACT:

Karen Grandinetti
 CHES Communications
karen.grandinetti@ches.edu

The *CHES Connection* provides news about CHES and our Workday Enterprise Resource Planning and Student Information System projects. Please feel free to share.

CHES, the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services, is a nonprofit comprised of member colleges that employs a unique approach to transform the student experience and streamline administrative operations through state-of-the-art technologies. *Mission: All Together* is the CHES initiative to launch Workday.