

UC San Diego's Evelyn Hidalgo Named HR Professional of the Year

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Leslie Webb

Evelyn Hidalgo, Assistant Dean of Academic and Staff Human Resources Administration of University of California San Diego (UCSD) - Health Sciences was named Human Resources Professional of the Year by the *San Diego Business Journal*. Honorees were chosen based on a number of measures, including career success, contributions to company growth and profitability, community involvement, as well as assisting in other areas of the organization.

Hidalgo was selected in the non-profit category for advancing the best possible working and learning environment striving to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism throughout the organization.

"It is gratifying to know that HR can play a pivotal role in an organization. Providing training and development programs such as A-Z training benefits the whole organization," Evelyn Hidalgo said. "My goal was to create development opportunities for Health Sciences staff. The results show that most of those who completed this functional area training received a promotion and/or salary increase and UCSD Health Sciences has a larger pool of well prepared, exceptional employees."

Hidalgo's career started at UCSD as a student employee and, after graduation, she worked in Finance and Patient Care before changing her career to Human Resources 10 years ago. Six years ago she was recruited by Health Sciences. In a very short time, she implemented a number of initiatives such as developing professional training programs, creating partnerships with community organizations, and changing the role of HR from a tactical support function to a strategic function.

She serves as a member at large for the American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Business Group and was instrumental in helping that group create the first HR Pre-conference for the national meeting. She has partnered with community organizations like the American Heart Association and the Summer Youth Development Programs, which brings high school students from underserved areas of the community to UCSD and provides them with career development training, professional work experience, and a mentor. In addition, she was instrumental in bringing fitness and wellness programs to our employees.

Her recent achievements include receiving the UC San Diego Human Resources Partner Award 2008; Health Sciences Outstanding Customer Service Award 2006, 2007 and 2008; UCSD Academic Health Sciences Exemplary Award 2008; and UCSD Community Champion (Diversity Award) in 2003 and 2004.

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