



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Rosen College of Hospitality Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rosen College Mentorship Program Honored with NACADA Award

Five-year Old Program Receives National Recognition

Orlando, FL (May 8, 2017) -- The [National Academic Advising Association](http://www.nacada.org) (NACADA) has awarded University of Central Florida Rosen College of Hospitality Management's [Peer Outreach Mentoring Program](#) (POMP) its award for Outstanding Advising Program. NACADA, the Global Community for Academic Advising, will present the award to POMP's Director Vanessa Blackmon, at its fall awards ceremony, held in St. Louis, MO. Blackmon will also receive the Outstanding Advising Program Award, as well as a certificate of merit in Primary Advising.

"POMP, under the direction of Mrs. Blackmon, has taken some students who were struggling or unsure of their place in the world, paired them with others who were inspiring, and propelled them towards graduation and successful careers in hospitality and tourism," said Dr. Abraham Pizam, dean of Rosen College. "This program has led to a significant increase in GPAs among our at-risk students and allowed them to interact with peers who can relate to their struggles. We are extremely proud of Mrs. Blackmon and POMP as this award is a significant achievement."

POMP was established at Rosen College five years ago with eleven students. Since that time it has grown to almost 100 students. Graduates of the college and the program have remained dedicated alumni, supporting POMP through professional mentoring sessions and providing career guidance. Among the Spring 2017 Rosen College graduates are nine POMP students who already have jobs in the hospitality industry, prior to commencement.

Established in 1983, NACADA's Annual Program for Academic Advising honors individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising. NACADA is a representative and advocate of academic advising and those providing that service to higher education. NACADA has more than 11,000 members and hosts an Annual Conference each fall that has attracted 3,000 attendees

About the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

The UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management located in Orlando, offers students an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the heart of hospitality. Ranked in the top five hospitality management programs worldwide, Rosen College has been an educational leader for over 30 years. Uniquely positioned in America's top tourism destination, we educate the next generation of industry leaders through internationally-recognized faculty, innovative academic programs, cutting-edge research and strong industry and community partnerships. To learn more, visit hospitality.ucf.edu.