

Congratulations to Jeanne Semilia — Ziptastic Award winner for June

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Please make an effort to congratulate **Jeanne Semilia**, above, right, as the winner of the Ziptastic Award for June. She is the administrative assistant in the Department of Biology. Pictured with her is her nominator, **Dr. Stephen Weeks**, professor of biology.

Semilia has been with UA for 35 years — first as an undergraduate student. In 2008, she became a staff member in Developmental Programs. In 2015, she joined the Department of Biology, where she was welcomed and appreciated in her new role. The favorite part of her job is helping students.

“There is nothing better than when they leave my office happier than when they came in,” she says. “Students are both our customer and our product, so we do have a unique situation compared to other industries. We have to make sure the student, as a customer, is happy...and we have to make sure the student, as a product, is polished and ready to go out into the world after graduation.”

“We should all do what we can for the students because they do deserve a great college experience, but at the same time, everyone working on this campus should be appreciated for the job they do to make this all happen,” adds Semilia. “I’m very glad an organization like SEAC exists to help give staff members a little recognition and appreciation. These types of things do help with morale, which is so very important at this time.”

In nominating Semilia, Weeks noted that she “always goes above and beyond with students and helping staff. She has an upbeat nature and is constantly thinking of new and better ways to engage students and to promote The University of Akron. She is a graduate of UA and totally has the UA spirit. Jeanne is particularly good with students. She individually calls students when courses are cancelled and helps them find alternatives. She goes the extra mile with graduate students too. Jeanne is an all-around excellent employee and a true asset that UA should recognize.”

Don't forget to send in your June nominations by June 10 by completing the Ziptastic online nomination form available on the [Staff Employee Advisory Committee website \(http://www.uakron.edu/seac/\)](http://www.uakron.edu/seac/).

Originally Published Here (<http://share.uakron.edu/mailAll/Digest/archive/152111>) | Archive (<http://share.uakron.edu/mailAll/Digest/archive>)