

## **Recognition Statement for the Person of the Year**

Written and Announced by Dr. David Russell

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The Center for Risk and Insurance supports the study of Insurance with the ultimate goal of helping our students better their lives through education and opportunity. Those of us who interact regularly with the Insurance industry know the appeal of a career in Insurance and we want to share that knowledge with students who are entering the workforce. Here at CSUN, we are fortunate to have the support of industry donors and professionals who help us assist students who want to develop their understanding of insurance.

Early last year, Assistant Director Dr. Shane Chang and I began the process of establishing a new award to recognize the person who—over the preceding year—made a special impact on our students and our program. We call this new award recipient our Center’s “Insurance Person of the Year.”

Before I identify our award recipient, allow me to spend a few moments telling you how this person has made an impact on both CSUN and the Insurance industry. About a decade ago, I heard from a CSUN alum, class of 1988. This person, then a rising star at Twentieth Century Insurance, soon thereafter to be renamed Twenty-First Insurance, then to be acquired by AIG and eventually purchased by Farmers, reached out to offer help as we built our program and to establish a link between CSUN and the El Camino Chapter of CPCU. He began largely by speaking in our classes, but quickly took on a much more impactful role.

Through work with area CPCU Chapters, this person has been a leader in helping many insurance industry leaders understand the benefits of insurance education and making introductions valuable for CSUN students and faculty. He has worked tirelessly to increase scholarship support from insurance trade organizations and

insurance companies alike. Over time, that scholarship support has totaled well over \$20,000.

Almost five years ago, this person was a motivating force behind our Insurance Operations course, co-sponsored by Los Angeles area CPCU Chapters and team taught by numerous Farmers Insurance professionals. The course, now in its fourth year, has record enrollment and has helped place students in positions within insurance and risk management.

Our honoree's efforts to help our students study and connect with the Insurance industry's many opportunities—both in LA and beyond—have allowed us to extend our reach among CSUN students, alumni and insurance community partners. Because of his persistent advocacy and hard work, CSUN students and our Insurance program have made and will make an even bigger impact on the Insurance industry.

As Director for the California State University, Northridge, Center for Risk and Insurance, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the first recipient of our Insurance Person of the Year award is Jim Taylor.

Jim's day job is to serve as head of Claims Compliance and Quality Assurance for Farmers Insurance Exchange, where he also oversees the National Quality Assurance Team, a group which helps measure and ensure good business outcomes at Farmers, a \$20 billion organization.

Outside of Farmers, Jim has held numerous leadership roles in the CPCU organization, including as president of both the El Camino and Los Angeles Chapters and most recently as the Western region chapter governor for the CPCU Society.

In addition to a bachelor's degree from CSUN, Jim holds a law degree from Southwestern as well as numerous designations, including Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter and Associate in Claims.

Along with his wife, Lisa, who also is a CSUN alum, Jim has two children. Please join me once again in recognizing Jim Taylor.

Finally, I want all of the students in attendance to know that, with time, effort and commitment, you can make a real difference on both the present and the future. Jim Taylor has done just that. Thank you.