

## **Our Hero, March 2017**

### **Yesenia Gutierrez, formerly of Equal Opportunity and Access**



Yesenia stepped in at a moment of personal crisis and intervened to make sure my employment rights were protected. She clearly informed me of what my rights and responsibilities were in no uncertain terms, which helped me understand how to prioritize my time and work, and make some important decisions.

More broadly, she is my hero because of her dedication to equity, employee rights and because I believe the best qualities of her comportment is her standard operating procedure. She is someone who commands respect because she imparts it immediately and without reservation. Her passion for equity and disability rights gives one hope in times where finding someone with such honorable character is challenging. More simply and understated: she is just a good person. As with many people I admire, I've looked into her experience and background. Yesenia Gutierrez was one of the finest hires by OSU in my book, and she is more than deserving of this award because she is a true hero in every sense.

OSU has greatly focused on diversity and the importance of accessibility over the last two years. While Yesenia fills a necessary administrative role, her professional background in non-profit disability, diversity and equity work, personal volunteer commitments and awards demonstrate that OSU didn't simply hire someone who "checked the box." If Yesenia represents OSU's dedication to diversity, equity, accessibility and employee rights, then by virtue of her achievements, we demonstrate the commitments are more than lip service through her presence and representation.

Yesenia is clearly dedicated and passionate about what she does and this is evident through all of the interactions I have been privileged to have with her.

She is a true mentor.

Nominated by: Marian Ladenburg  
Professional and Continuing Education