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**UC Tech Awards 2023 Candidate**

**Category:** INNOVATION  
**Name:** Dinesh Bangara, Program Management Office (1)  
**Number of people:** (1)  
**For:** Enhancing the UPlan platform  
**Location:** UCLA Health

1. **Person submitting the application/nomination**
   1. Michael (“Mike”) Roach, Director, Program Management, UHIT, UCLA Health, UHIT, Staff
   2. Mcroach@mednet.ucla.edu
   3. UCLA Health
2. **Award category** Innovation
3. **Who are you nominating?** Dinesh Bangara, Program Management Office
4. **All project team members - if applicable** Not Applicable
5. **Which location was affected by the work?** UCLA Health UHIT, FPG, Executive Recruiting, PDC, UCSF (multiple departments), UCSD (multiple departments), UCI IT and Project Management
6. **Summary:** Dinesh Bangara's exceptional innovation and commitment to enhancing the UPlan platform have significantly impacted the University of California's ability to excel in its diverse missions. His creative solutions and effective use of technology have addressed complex challenges, promoting collaboration across departments and campuses. Dinesh's work embodies the qualities celebrated by the Larry L. Sautter Award for Innovation in Information Technology, making him a deserving candidate for this prestigious recognition.

**Narrative**

Dinesh Bangara, a highly skilled and dedicated Product Manager for UPlan, has demonstrated exceptional innovation and commitment to advancing the University of California's mission through the effective use of information technology. UPlan, a cross-campus Project Portfolio Management Tool, has significantly impacted numerous departments across UCLA, UCSF, UCSD, and UCI by facilitating the organization, staffing, planning, and execution of over 4,000 projects. Dinesh's innovative approaches and continuous improvements to the UPlan tool have directly benefited more than 4,000 users and provided over 30,000 UC team members with real-time access to project information. In recognition of his outstanding achievements, I am proud to nominate Dinesh Bangara for the prestigious Larry L. Sautter Award for Innovation in Information Technology.

Dinesh's work on UPlan began with the vision of creating a user-friendly, centralized platform that would streamline project management across the University of California campuses. With a diverse range of projects, including UCLA's Homeless Health care initiative, Planning Design Construction projects, clinical projects, and operational projects, UPlan had to be flexible and robust enough to accommodate the varying needs of different departments.

To meet these demands, Dinesh implemented a variety of innovative solutions, such as:

Designing methods and approaches to post reports to Microsoft Teams channels, eliminating the need for users to sign in to the UPlan tool for quick project status updates. Introducing tools that automatically decrement available work time from project assignments when a team member submits PTO, preventing resource over allocation. Developing and releasing prototype chatbots that allow users to quickly access project information by asking UPlan questions in a Teams chat, further streamlining the information retrieval process.

In addition, Dinesh is leading a unique educational arm of the Program Management Office, hosting a podcast dedicated to teaching and learning about Agile project execution, available tools for running Agile projects, and the intersection of Agile project management with Product Management.

Complexity: Dinesh tackled the complex challenge of addressing the diverse needs of multiple departments and campuses. By understanding their unique requirements, he was able to create a centralized and user-friendly tool that caters to various types of projects.

Impact: UPlan, under Dinesh's leadership, has had a significant impact on the university's operations. Over 4,000 users actively manage more than 4,000 projects, with an additional 30,000 UC team members benefiting from real-time access to project information. This level of impact exemplifies the transformative power of effective information technology management.

Mission Alignment: By facilitating efficient project management and promoting collaboration, UPlan directly contributes to the university's mission to excel in research, teaching, and public service. Dinesh's innovative efforts have enhanced the university's ability to execute projects that advance its vision and values.

The success of Dinesh's work on UPlan is evident in the platform's widespread adoption across various departments and campuses. Furthermore, the continuous improvements and innovations introduced by Dinesh have made UPlan increasingly user-friendly and efficient, contributing to the platform's growing success.

Dinesh's work on UPlan is ongoing, with the most recent innovations being introduced within the past year. His dedication and passion for enhancing the platform have led to continuous improvements and new features that benefit the multiple University of California campuses.

Dinesh Bangara's exceptional innovation, dedication, and commitment to enhancing the UPlan platform have had a profound impact on the University of California's ability to excel in its academic, research, business operations, patient care, and public service missions. His creative solutions and effective use of technology have addressed complex challenges and promoted collaboration, resulting in a user-friendly project management tool that serves the needs of a diverse range of departments and campuses. Dinesh's work has significantly contributed to the university's mission alignment, and his ongoing pursuit of excellence in information technology management exemplifies the qualities celebrated by the Larry L. Sautter Award for Innovation in Information Technology.

In light of his outstanding achievements and the substantial impact of his work on the university community, we strongly believe that Dinesh Bangara is a deserving candidate for the prestigious Larry L. Sautter Award. His innovative spirit, technical expertise, and dedication to fostering collaboration and enhancing the University of California's ability to achieve its mission, vision, and values make him an exemplary representative of the values championed by this esteemed award.