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# DoD Awards USU Computer Science Faculty for Supporting Student Airman | College of Engineering

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## Award is First-Ever Given to Recipient in Higher Education

News Release – LOGAN, UTAH, Sept. 9, 2016 – The Defense Department’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program on Friday recognized a Utah State University faculty member for his support of a student who serves in the Utah Air National Guard.



Chad Mano, a lecturer in the Computer Science Department, was presented the ESGR Patriot Award by Retired Army Col. Morty Jenkins at a special presentation on the USU campus Friday morning. Mano was nominated by student and Sr. Airman Daniel Evans, who said he nominated Mano for his supportive attitude when he learned he would deploy for a mission just days before final exams.

Evans said Mano was fully supportive of his dilemma and, while not cutting him any slack, allowed Evans to conduct an oral final exam before his deployment.

“I knew that my fall 2015 semester was going to be a wild one as soon as I was told that my temporary deployment would leave a week and a half before the end of the semester,” wrote Evans in his nomination letter. “However, after speaking with Chad Mano, I was left with zero concern in regards to his class.”

By the time Evans boarded a C-135 to begin his mission, Mano had finalized Evans’ grade.



Mano's ESGR Patriot Award is the first-ever nationwide to be presented to a recipient who works in higher education. A majority of ESGR awards are given to private employers in support of their employees who serve in the armed forces.

Evans completed his deployment to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam where he served a month-long mission. He's back on the USU campus completing his degree in computer science and was present for the award ceremony. Command Sgt. Brian Garrett and Col. Commander Kristin Streukens of the Guard's 151<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing; and USU College of Engineering Interim Dean Jagath Kaluarachchi and Computer Science Department Head Dan Watson were also in attendance.

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