4-16-2012

Make-a-Difference Awards

John M. Dunn  
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu
• Good afternoon and thank you all for being here to celebrate the extraordinary service of the staff members we're honoring today. We see their work as extraordinary, but I know from experience that these employees usually don't see what they do as exceptional. They see what they do as a labor of love and the right thing to do.

• There are 13 people being honored. Today's honorees represent a broad swath of our campus. They come from four academic areas, our regional operations, student affairs, facilities management and public safety. They are people who have built their careers at Western Michigan University and they reach out to our students and their colleagues in a way that is driven not by their job descriptions, but by their genuine commitment to and concern for those who are part of our community.

• You know, we've been honoring employees this way for 18 years—first through our Staff Service Excellence Awards and, since 2004, through the Make a Difference award program. We won't run out of people to honor, because employees like those being honored today serve as role models who inspire all of us to take that extra step, spend that extra moment assisting a student or make sure a project is done just right. I expect some of the people who work with these 13 employees to be honored in the future. Doing the right thing is contagious.

• To those of you honored today, I simply say, "Thank You." What you do in your job everyday makes this a very special environment for our students, for our colleagues and for all the audiences we serve. You set the tone for our campus, and you've set the bar very high as you lead by example.
• Thank you to each of you for what you do each day for our University. Thank you for making our students safe, healthy and ready to succeed. And thank you for giving all of us role models to emulate as we continue about the important work we do.

• Enjoy the celebration today and keep up the extraordinary work.

Spring Award Recipients

• Jennifer Bailey, University Recreation
• Paula Bucknell, Extended University Programs
• Jeffrey Carr, Facilities Management-maintenance services
• Tracy Corstange, College of Education and Human Development
• Myra Currie, Department of Public Safety
• Cheri Edgar, Department of Business Information Systems
• Francies Frazier, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services
• Nicole Kalmbach, Division of Student Affairs
• Kristine Kling, Department of Foreign Languages
• Julie Lenczycki, Facilities Management-projects and construction
• Veronica Thomas, Office of Residence Life
• Robert VanDyke, Dining Services
• Lisa Youtzy, Department of Marketing