

NOMINEE NAME: **Altenau-Keen, Kristen**
EMPLOYEE CLASS: **Exempt**
NOMINEE TITLE: **Assistant Dean of Students**
DEPARTMENT: **Division of Student Development**

The University of Dayton's culture is firmly rooted in our Marianist principles. But even more than that, the character of our founders and—more recently—that of our leaders is what truly defines us. Struggle and hardship are what truly shape the character of an institution, and it is through this struggle that true leaders emerge. This is more relevant now than ever, as we all know. We are fortunate indeed to have many great leaders on campus, and while all are deserving of recognition, one in particular stands out as a model for positive change. We are pleased to announce this year's winner of the Presidential Staff Achievement Award in the Exempt category: Kristen Altenau-Keen, Assistant Dean of Students.

Many of us know Kristen or have worked with her in some capacity or another. As colleagues we know her to be diplomatic, tireless, kind, and intelligent. A consummate professional, she is respected and admired. Her dedication to making UD a Green Dot campus is well known. Not only are faculty and staff provided opportunities to become Green Dot proponents, but I think we all enjoy some Green Dot cookies or brownies from time to time. Thanks, Kristen. Hope to see more of those in the break room someday.

However, it isn't just impact with our staff and faculty that defines her success. Colleagues say her work with students is her greatest asset to the University. According to one source, Kristen has spoken to thousands of UD students about sexual assault prevention and is responsible for the development and facilitation of the PAVE program on campus, a peer education group dedicated to empowering students to act against sexual violence. In fact, national data consistently demonstrates that UD ranks highly for bystander intervention, data that can reliably tied to Kristen's work here. Students report bystander intervention (a hallmark of both Green Dot and PAVE) as a social norm here on campus. They also report a deeper understanding of the concept of sexual violence and means for its prevention. This is clearly indicative of a positive cultural change here among our student population.

If that weren't enough, Kristen's understanding of the psychological effect of trauma also has peripheral effects on campus culture. She works with Public Safety and other offices to inform them of the effects of trauma on the brain, from its inception during a traumatic event to the neurological effects afterwards. She takes measures to prevent re-victimization and educates others on trauma's effect on memory. In short, Kristen is a champion for student well-being and empowerment.

If one were to tie her many accomplishments to one central theme, it would be this: Kristen is an advocate for justice and a tireless defender of students, of faculty and staff, of the whole community. It is for these reasons and many others that Kristen is deserving of the Presidential Staff Achievement Award. Congratulations, Kristen.