

NOMINEE NAME: LoPresti, Libby
EMPLOYEE CLASS: Non-exempt
NOMINEE TITLE: Senior Administrative Assistant
DEPARTMENT: Innovation Center - School of Engineering

We all hear the words “Marianist values” regularly. We use them to differentiate UD from other institutions, and we use them as guiding principles for our behavior and even the University’s strategic goals. And truly, we all try to ensure those values are manifest in all that we do. And while we can all try our best to do that, there are occasionally individuals on campus who effortlessly exhibit those values, who expertly make this campus a better place. They demonstrate a drive for strong community through compassion and inclusion. They show great humility and a welcoming spirit. And some among them are models for how professionals should behave. This year’s Presidential Staff Achievement Award in the Non-exempt category goes to one such valued employee: Libby LoPresti from the Innovation Center in the School of Engineering.

Libby received a number of nominations but woven throughout each of the narratives was a common theme: community. Libby is one of those rare individuals whose personality and work ethic create a synergistic effect on the employees and students she works with. She is a true embodiment of someone who works for the common good. Truly a person who demonstrates Flyer spirit on a daily basis.

Her kindness is clear in her coordination of annual drives for the needy. Here on campus she is often involved in team-building events in the School of Engineering, as well as student-centric initiatives like Mental Health First Aid training. She also stays involved in helping those in the campus community who’ve fallen on hard times and can’t provide for themselves. As one colleague puts it, Libby’s actions “reflect the Marianist charism of people of community, discipleship of equals, and leaders in mission”.

She does this all with skill, sensitivity, candor and a clever sense of humor. Everyone who knows Libby is treated with dignity and respect. It is said she likes to treat students as she would her own children. She is a champion of inclusion regardless of race, sexuality, ethnicity or creed, and she does this with a caring touch. She is truly the epitome of what leadership is meant to be: caring for others before one’s self. However, this exemplary behavior isn’t limited to a few students. Libby personally interacts with over 350 students per semester, demonstrating a genuine concern for their welfare and academic success. She does this not only by providing administrative services to them, but she also supports them in capstone projects by maintaining communication channels with over 80 community and industry partners, all for the benefits of our soon-to-be graduates.

We are fortunate indeed to have an individual with such incredible qualities in such a pivotal role. Her impact on students and colleagues cannot be overstated. Libby is a true representation of what we wish for all of our staff on campus: a compassionate embodiment of the Marianist spirit. It is for these reasons and many more that Libby LoPresti is deserving of this year’s Presidential Staff Achievement Award. Congratulations, Libby.