

March 12, 2021

Natalie Baires
Wil Clark
Cyndy Green
Tarnisha Green
Renada Greer

Deborah Harmon
Marianne Shields
Katrina Stackhouse
Andrea Steen
Julie Virgo

Re: University – Level Staff Excellence Awards

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for serving on the committee to select the University – Level Staff Excellence Award recipients. These awards were established to recognize staff who continually strive towards excellence while keeping the primary mission of the University, educating students, in focus.

Your participation in selecting and recommending Richard Scott Taylor and Lanel Love for the University - Level Staff Excellence Awards is most appreciated. The award recipients have been contacted by the Chancellor's Office.

Sincerely,



Judy Marshall
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
Chair, University-Level Staff Excellence Award Committee

JM:pp



NEWS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021



March 31, 2021

SIU to honor nine Excellence Award recipients

by Pete Rosenbery

CARBONDALE, Ill. – Southern Illinois University Carbondale will recognize nine faculty and staff members this spring for superior scholarship and creative endeavors, teaching, and service with the [2021 Excellence Awards](#).

The awards are bestowed annually for exceptional work and include a new emerging leader award. This year’s recipients include scientists, advocates for social justice and people who support students outside the classroom. They will be recognized during the State of the University event on April 26.

“In my nine months as SIU Carbondale’s chancellor, I have been deeply impressed by the dedication and resilience of our faculty and staff, especially in challenging circumstances,” Chancellor Austin Lane said. “The Excellence Awards winners have demonstrated outstanding teaching, significant scholarly and artistic contributions, and dedication to furthering the mission of our university. I hope everyone is as inspired by our award winners as I am.”

The 2021 SIU Carbondale Excellence Awards winners are:

- » Scholar Excellence Award: [Daryl G. Kroner](#), professor, criminology and criminal justice.
- » Teaching Excellence Award (tenured and tenure-track): [Michael James Lydy](#), professor, zoology.
- » Teaching Excellence Award (non-tenure track) [Diana Tigerlily](#), associate professor of practice, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and [Kevin R. Smith](#), senior lecturer, chemistry and biochemistry.
- » Early Career Faculty Excellence Award: [Gayan Baduge](#), assistant professor, electrical, computer and biomedical engineering.
- » Women of Distinction: [Bobbi Knapp](#), associate professor, kinesiology.
- » Emerging Leader: [Sandy Pensoneau-Conway](#), associate professor and chair, communication

studies, and interim director, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

- » Staff Excellence Award: **Lanel Love**, assistant dean of students and director, First Saluki Center, and **Richard Scott Taylor**, superintendent of buildings, University Housing.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL 62901

P: 618-453-2121

Email Webmaster

Privacy Policy | EOE

© 2021 SIU Board of Trustees

All Rights Reserved.



APRIL 1, 2021 · BY CHRISTI MATHIS

First Saluki Center director Lanel Love wins 2021 Staff Excellence Award



This is one in a series featuring the university's 2021 Faculty and Staff Excellence Award recipients, who are being recognized for outstanding teaching, significant scholarly and artistic contributions, and dedication to furthering the mission of the university.

Lanel Love, the assistant dean of students and director of the First Saluki Center, is the 2021 recipient of the Staff Excellence Award for administrative/professionals.

Colleagues and students alike praise her for her dedication, commitment and concern for students.

For Love, a double alumna of SIU and a first-generation student herself, it's not just a job but a passion and a mission and she's grateful to be recognized for her work.

"I am honored to receive the staff excellence award and thankful to the dean of students and student affairs division for their support," Love said. "I enjoy making a difference in first-generation students' lives, helping them solve challenges and connecting them with valuable resources that will help them succeed in college."

Committed to student success

Love has "displayed a commitment to student success and the mission of the university" and is "welcoming and accommodating to all students," according to Rachel Dunning, assistant director of fraternity and sorority life. In nominating Love for the award, Dunning noted that since helping establish the center, Love has also created the First and Proud Living Learning Community for first-generation college students along with many other initiatives.

She said Love "goes above and beyond her normal job requirements to ensure student success."

Jennifer Jones-Hall, dean of students, points out that under Love's leadership the center and the many initiatives and activities she has put in place there have garnered multiple national honors. Moreover, the payoff has been evident in many other ways, including first-generation student retention rates of 90-92%, student scholarships and academic success, mentorship connections and more.

Karen Carlton, a graduate assistant at the First Saluki Center, has experienced Love's commitment firsthand, from help with class assignments to assistance with an award application to one-on-one mentorship. Carlton said Love is always seeking

new and different ways to encourage student success.

A visionary with goals

“Dr. Love is a visionary and is continually looking beyond where we are and envisioning what we can become. She has short-term and long-term goals and works hard every day to make them a reality,” Carlton said. “Her next goal is to provide tutoring for students who are struggling in math and science. She is well on her way to making this become a reality.”

Prior to assuming her current position in 2019, Love was assistant director of the Student Multicultural Resource Center and a program assistant at its precursor, the Center for Inclusive Excellence. Her experience also includes owning a home business and working as program coordinator for SIU’s Project Upward Bound.

She is a double alumna of SIU, earning her master’s degree in education and bachelor’s degree in technical careers. Love also holds a doctorate in educational leadership and an associate degree in business administration.

POSTED IN #SALUKIPRIDE

PREV

For housing superintendent Scott Taylor, the emphasis is meeting students’ needs

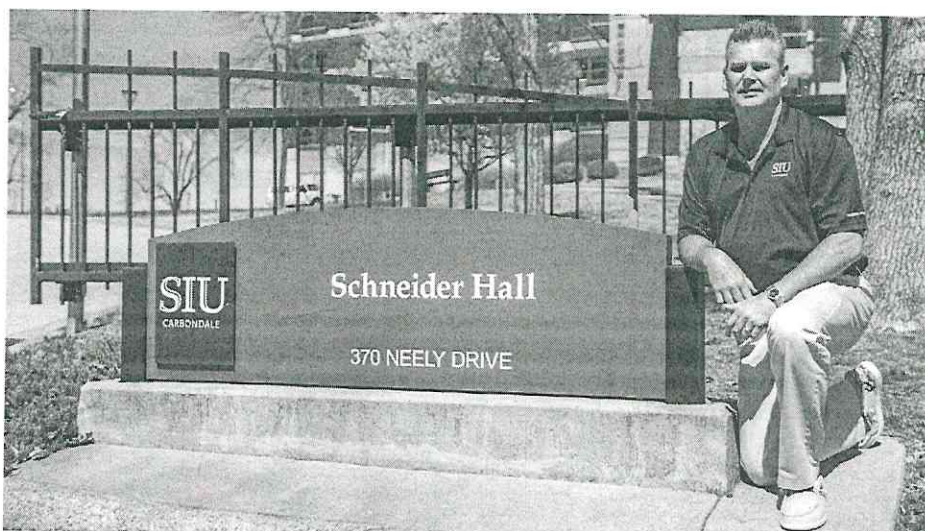
NEXT

Diversity, inclusion and social justice are hallmarks of Pensoneau-Conway’s leadership



APRIL 1, 2021 · BY PETE ROSENBERY

For housing superintendent Scott Taylor, the emphasis is meeting students' needs



This is one in a series featuring the university's 2021 Faculty and Staff Excellence Award recipients, who are being recognized for outstanding teaching, significant scholarly and artistic contributions, and dedication to furthering the mission of the university.

As the superintendent of buildings for University Housing, Scott Taylor views his responsibilities as stretching far beyond the brick and mortar maintenance of SIU Carbondale's residence halls, apartments and dining halls.

For Taylor, it's about the students.

“Scott gives his all every day, keeping students at the forefront of his work,” wrote University Housing Director Jon Shaffer, who nominated Taylor for the university’s 2021 Staff Excellence Award. “He never allows the clock or calendar to suggest he should not respond to our students’ or facilities’ needs.”

The award recognizes an administrative/professional or civil service staff member for significant contributions to further the university’s mission. That includes demonstrating excellence in overall work performance, helping to improve students’ experiences and serving as a role model for faculty, staff and students.

‘Greatly humbled’ by nomination, award

Taylor credits his “dedicated and committed staff” that he has the privilege to work with.

“I’m receiving the award, but it truly belongs to the entire Housing staff who during this past year tirelessly and selflessly put the care and comfort of others ahead of themselves,” he said.

Taylor started with SIU in January 1995 as a building service worker. He held a variety of positions, including supervisor of custodial operations, before becoming superintendent of buildings in February 2016, where he supervises all maintenance and housing operations within University Housing, along with custodial operations, trades staff and mentoring student employees. The buildings include 15 residence halls, more than 400 apartments, Evergreen Terrace, two dining halls and several buildings that are offline.

‘Integral role’ in response to pandemic

Shaffer wrote of Taylor's concerns for students and staff even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Recalling lessons from the H1N1 virus a decade earlier, Taylor ordered a reasonable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitizer and cleaning solutions before they became scarce. University Housing was "fully prepared with a virus response protocol well before receiving guidance from the local, state or federal level" and provided easy migration into the larger university response, Shaffer wrote.

When several residence hall students were in isolation after spring break 2020, Taylor took personal responsibility to provide meals, keeping track of students' dietary restrictions, and deliver mail and packages and even medicines, Shaffer wrote.

"Scott's leadership during this time is the perfect example of not only his selfless dedication to students, but his insistence on leading from the front, especially when it comes to protecting his staff team," Shaffer wrote. "He does not ask others to do what he is not willing to do himself, and he sees it as his responsibility to be in the trenches when asking others to do tough jobs."

Credits his staff for their response

Taylor said he is "most proud" of his staff's willingness to accommodate students.

"Not once did any of the staff come to me to complain about the changes to their work schedules," he said. "Even though they had the added stress and worry, they continued to do their jobs ensuring that the residents' and staffs' needs were being met daily."

POSTED IN #SALUKIPRIDE