Spring 2024 Make a Difference Award Recipients

Tree Campus Higher Education Recognition & Arbor Day Celebration
Congratulations to Rebecca Popp, one of our Skilled Trades Helpers, and Nicole Slater, one of our custodians, for receiving the Spring 2024 Semiannual Make a Difference award. They both received their award at a celebration on Wednesday, April 10. We are so proud and very thankful to have you both on our team!

ASYLUM LAKE PRESERVE
PRESERVED FOREST AND PRAIRIE BURN

On April 22, Asylum Lake Preserve underwent a forest and prairie burn. In total, 18 acres of prairie/savannah and 17.3 acres of forest were burned. Prescribed burns are a valuable tool for supporting ecological processes and promoting healthy native vegetation.
Western Michigan University has officially earned the 2023 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition! Tree Campus Higher Education is an Arbor Day Foundation program that honors colleges and universities for effective forest management and engaging their campus community in conservation goals.

A campus must meet five core standards in order to gain this recognition:
1. Maintaining a tree advisory committee
2. Evidence of a campus tree care plan
3. Dedicated annual expenditures for your campus tree program
4. An Arbor Day observance
5. The sponsorship of student service learning projects

Congratulations and thank you to all our staff who made this recognition possible. We enjoyed celebrating with everyone in person at our 2024 Arbor Day celebration, which was on Friday, April 26. At the event, a musclewood tree was planted on the south side of Goldworth Valley Pond. The event was in conjunction with and supported by the Delta Chi and Iota Sigma Omega chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc.
Dear Maintenance Team,

May 1 is National Skilled Trades Day. It seems there is a day for everything, but this one has a special importance to me...even more than Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.

As I reflect on each of you in Maintenance Services, I can say without hesitation that I have a lot to be thankful for. I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the hard work you do to keep our campus running smoothly. I truly appreciate your dedication and commitment to WMU.

Each of you has consistently shown yourself to be loyal, hardworking and knowledgeable. You each bring a professional expertise in your respective trade to the benefit of the campus community. I know that your work often goes unnoticed, but I notice and I appreciate what you do to keep everything in good shape for the students.

Again, my wholehearted thank-you for jobs well done, not only over the past year, but for all of the years each of you has been here, as well as continuing in the upcoming year.

With appreciation and warm regards,

Marcy Lynn
Director of Maintenance Services
The golf team was all smiles as they helped start the demolition of their locker room at Seeyle Center! The locker room is getting renovated, along with the addition of a chip and putt space, a hitting lab and a golf putting lab. All of this is possible because of a $1.5 million gift from Jeff and Stephanie Bergeron.


**SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO WMU!**

Jim Haun, Landscape Services, 25 years

**NEW EMPLOYEES**

Lillian Manning, Custodial Services
Colton Myers, Custodial Services
Jade Hart, Custodial Services
Chad Russell, Maintenance Services
NOTE FROM THE AVP

Hello Facilities Management Team,

As we enter into summer, we are planning for both immediate summer project needs, as well as continuing to plan for WMU’s future. Facilities Management began creating a new Master Plan this year as a road map that will guide future changes to our physical campus environment. In April, we hosted workshops encompassing key partners across campus, as well as open houses to provide input for key goals of the plan. Our partners will be back on campus this summer to receive input from the surrounding communities to better understand how our campus can continue to be a destination within the region.

As a part of the Master Plan, you will begin to see an increase in our green space. Green space initiatives can increase recreation areas for our campus population, have positive impacts on mental and physical health, reduce air pollution, promote biodiversity, help nature conversation efforts, improve pedestrian safety and add aesthetic value to the campus environment. One of those initiatives is the expansion of the Sangren Mall, which is currently in design.

Construction season is upon us, and we have a lot of activity going on this summer. Some summer projects you will see progress are the building of the new hilltop village parking ramp and loop road, the demolition of the Bernhard Center, the demolition of the Valley 3 residence halls and the resurfacing of the amphitheater. One particular project of note is you will begin to see phase one of the Physical Plant remodel, which will begin with the build out of the IT offices, along with Facilities Records on the first floor. Along with these projects, of course we have all of our normal facilities operations activities as we prepare to welcome students and faculty back to campus in the fall.

While all of this promises a busy summer in Facilities Management, it is also a time when you should take some time to rejuvenate. I encourage you to enjoy some sunshine and beautiful weather while it’s here, and spend time with family and friends. Your hard work is appreciated, so take some time for yourself and enjoy the summer fun.

Chad Stirrett
Associate Vice President

PROJECTS ON CAMPUS

- Lot 89 reconstruction (June 10-July 30)
- Lot 10 reconstruction (June 17-28)
- Bernhard Center Demolition
- Valley 3 Demolition
- Walwood EV-4 replacement
- Schneider Hall - Cafe remodel on first floor
- View the full list of visible summer projects at wmich.edu/maps/print
REMEMBERING LORI BELL

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Lori Bell. Lori dedicated an incredible 35 years to WMU, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the pleasure of working with her. Lori was truly an asset to our department. Her presence lit up any room she entered, and she was known for her friendly demeanor and stylish flair. Lori’s warmth and kindness touched everyone she met, creating a welcoming and positive atmosphere.

As we remember Lori, we reflect on the many moments of joy and camaraderie she brought to our team. Her dedication and spirit will be deeply missed, but her legacy will continue to inspire us all. Please join us in celebrating Lori’s life and the wonderful memories we shared. We have included some photographs from her time here to honor her remarkable journey with WMU Facilities Management.
Kudos to Matt Clare for such a fine job he did painting in Read Fieldhouse.
- Mary Stowell, Custodial Services

Your new plumber, Travis, was repairing things in SRC building the other day. I would like you to know that he was pleasant, considerate and handled both work orders that day. It is refreshing to see. Women’s restroom can now wash their hands with a good stream of water.
- Mary Stowell, Custodial Services

Mr. Maley did such great work! He even took the extra step of adding picture wire to one of the pictures (and installed hanging brackets, too!). In all, a really great experience, and work well done.
- Barry Olson, Student Affairs

Brian (Kirby) and Casey (Bushouse) are fast and efficient, great carpenters!!! Thank you!!!!!
- Pat Lem, Maintenance Services

I appreciated the heads up call/voicemail from the Fix-It team to let me know which areas to remove furniture/items for the repairman.
- Susan, Resident at Western View Apartments

He (Bruce Kirkendall) was very nice and worked efficiently.
- Luke, Resident at Western View Apartments

Brian (Kirby) and Casey (Bushouse) are fast and efficient, great carpenters!!! Thank you!!!!!
- Pat Lem, Maintenance Services

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Facilities Connection newsletter, please contact Laura Kirkendall at laura.l.kirkendall@wmich.edu.

**AVP OPEN OFFICE HOURS**

Our AVP, Chad Stirrett, is sharing open office hours from 1-4 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. Other meeting times can also be made available on request. To schedule a meeting, please contact Laura Cornish at 269-387-8556 or laura.cornish@wmich.edu.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- May 27 - Memorial Day
- June 27 - Summer II classes begin
- June 29 - Commencement
- July 4 - Independence Day

**LINKS OF INTEREST**

- wmich.edu/wmutoday
- wmich.edu/wellness
- wmich.edu/master-plan
- wmich.edu/maps/print

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