



The Davidson Staff Award 2021

The Elizabeth W. and Joseph K. Davidson Staff Award is presented each year to a staff member that best represents the values and principles of Mount Union. For the Davidson Staff Award, we would like to recognize and honor **Mark Kolenz**.

Mark has been at Mount Union in the Office of Information Technology (IT) since 2006. In his years of service he has been an outstanding contributor to the IT department and the University. He has exceptional job knowledge and is always willing to help, even at short notice. Those who nominated Mark explained:

“Mark is a huge asset to the Information Technology department and the campus as a whole. He is deserving of this recognition. Mark is the Director of Information Technology for Operations. There is not a time when working with IT, that Mark is not involved. Mark is constantly helping co-workers and other departments on campus. He is so eager to share his knowledge with you so that you feel you are learning in the process as well. Mark has the ability to communicate effectively with all of his co-workers on campus, from VP level to student workers. Mark is very dedicated to his job. Mark takes pride in the work that he does and makes you feel valued.”

“While many people have taken on additional duties and responsibilities over the past year, to me Mark has gone above and beyond anyone else. With the implementation of Colleague over the past couple of years, it is not uncommon for him to be double or triple booked with meeting or trainings. Despite this, he is always available and can quickly help with an issue or find solutions to problems.”

“Mark is an integral part of our IT staff and has taken on so many additional duties with regards to the implementation of new systems over the past few years.”

“Mark has been instrumental over the last year and half with the implementation of our new Ellucian Colleague system. Even though it has taken a team effort including administrative core team leads, Ellucian consultants, project leads and Information Technology, Mark has continued to step up again and again over the course of this project. . . . Mark is professional, hard-working, goes above and beyond time and time again.”

“Mark's efforts continue to be a key factor in our success of this project.”

“Mark is a huge asset to the Information Technology department and the campus as a whole. He is deserving of this recognition. Mark is the Director of Information Technology for Operations. There is not a time when working with IT, that Mark is not involved. Mark is constantly helping co-workers and other departments on campus. He is so eager to share his knowledge with you so that you feel you are learning in the process as well. Mark has the ability to communicate effectively with all of his co-workers on campus, from VP level to student workers. Mark is very dedicated to his job. Mark takes pride in the work that he does and makes you feel valued.”

“Mark is always so friendly and arrives with a happy greeting no matter what task he is doing and what other things he has to do. Although Mark is responsible for his own daily task, he can often be found assisting other co-workers with their tasks on campus. He makes sure that the faculty, students, employees are all being taken care of -- especially with the pandemic and the technology needs. I appreciate the effort that Mark has stepped up as a leader in efforts for the SIS to be up and running to meet the various deadlines. It's been a long and demanding process yet Mark does what it takes to get the job done. Mark takes pride in the work that he does.”

“Mark has made exceptional contributions to the SIS implementation. I don't know where we would be without him. He participates in almost every call or meeting regarding the implementation. He is always immediately available to trouble shoot, diagnose and fix problems, many times on the fly without any preparation or previous knowledge of the situation. Our Ellucian consultant has said that we are well ahead of peer schools in our implementation. I would assert that this is in large part due to Mark's involvement and contribution to the project. I would say that Mark's contribution has made the difference in accomplishing a successful implementation of the new SIS.”

Congratulations, Mark!