



The Outstanding Hourly Staff Award 2021

The Outstanding Hourly Staff Award is given to an hourly staff member at the University of Mount Union to recognize the hard work and outstanding contributions made to Mount Union. For the Outstanding Hourly Staff Award, we would like to recognize **Denise Hamsher**.

Denise has been with the University of Mount Union since 2017 in the Housekeeping Department. She shows a sincere interest in those around her and is extremely conscientious in her work. Those who nominated Denise Hamsher explained:

“I see Denise every day as she carries out her housekeeping duties on the first floor of Bracy. She is always cheerful, pleasant, courteous, and meticulous in her duties. In my view, she sets the bar for campus citizenship.”

“Housekeeping has carried a heavier load than normal this year due to the pandemic. Denise has managed her increased duties incredibly well and with a buoyant attitude. As just one example: if I happen to be in my office when she comes by to wipe down door handles and other fixtures (which occurs several times each day), she is always ready with a kind greeting and a bit of conversation. In an academic year characterized by remote and asynchronous learning, and in a culture where we are increasingly polarized and glued to our screens, Denise routinely demonstrates the power of pleasant face-to-face conversation.”

“For both her great work ethic and her positive engagement with the people fortunate enough to meet her during their day, Denise is very deserving of the Outstanding Staff Award.”

“Denise is the type of person who not only goes above and beyond in her work, but also executes her tasks with exceptional care. She is friendly and personable and works daily with all of us in Bracy Hall to coordinate the care and cleaning of classroom and lab spaces. She makes sure to know which classrooms are in use and when - even when they are used for 'unofficial' activities like office hours or tutoring. Our labs are always pristinely cleaned and prepared for the arrival of students each day, which is a significant accomplishment considering the sometimes 'messy and cluttered' nature of what we do in those spaces. Denise is always one of the first to notice and to alert us when something goes wrong - such as a potential fume hood leak due to a malfunctioning air handler. Her attention to detail and her care and concern for students and all campus community members has made an impact on us here in Bracy Hall.”

“This academic year, restrictions due to COVID-19 have greatly increased the workload of our staff across campus - especially those tasked with protecting the health and safety of our students and community members through cleaning classrooms, offices, and other public spaces. All year, Denise has worked exceptionally hard to make sure that our students' classroom spaces are sanitized, cleaned, tidy, and safe. She has daily made the extra effort to check with faculty about which rooms and lab spaces they plan to use (both for courses and for office hours etc.), and to make sure the classrooms and labs are ready before our big sections of students arrive for the day. This extra care and attention is noticed and appreciated by all of us here in Bracy Hall.”

Congratulations, Denise!