



The Outstanding Support Staff Award

The Outstanding Support Staff Award is given to a support staff member at the University of Mount Union to recognize the hard work and outstanding contributions made to Mount Union. For the Outstanding Support Staff Award, we would like to recognize and honor **Traci McGary Finnegin**.

Traci has been with the University of Mount Union since 2003 in the Education Department. With her positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond, she is beloved by students and faculty alike. Those who nominated Traci shared:

“Traci goes above and beyond not only for the department but any student or staff member or faculty who needs any help at all. She encourages, comforts, trains, lifts up, and does whatever needs to be done at even before anyone knows it’s needed. She always has a smile and a positive attitude and is a joy to work with.”

“Traci is quite conscientious and wants *everyone* to feel a sense of belonging. She's the first to identify an individual who needs support or feels isolated. She asks excellent questions of people to help to get to know them, and it's clear that she cares about their backgrounds. She also does a wonderful job knowing exactly what she needs to do on a daily basis. She seeks new opportunities and challenges. We jokingly call her the "mom" of our department because so many faculty, staff, and candidates need her for band aids, advice, assurance, and support.”

“She is using her vacation days to help one of our Adjuncts at the Senior Center to make sure people get their Covid vaccines.”

“Her commitment and care for the entire student body was instrumental in keeping this institution running, and her love and attention to the students helped them feel cared for and appreciated. Traci became a surrogate mother and caretaker to many students. The pandemic was and continues to be a difficult time for students, but with someone like her, the students were able to "push through." Like our students, we all regularly seek her input with issues, as we can reliably count on her to be informative, collaborative, and creative. She cares more about solving problems than dwelling on concerns, and we all needed this type of attitude this past year.

Congratulations, Traci!