

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

39th Annual
**Employee
of the Year**
Recognition

February 1, 2022



PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremonies	Melissa Mlynski Associate Vice Chancellor, HR
Welcome	
Introduction of Selection Committee	Melissa Mlynski
Introduction of 2021	
Employees of the Month	Joan Sestak, Chair Cindy Ervin, Vice Chair
Announcement of 2021	
Employee of the Year	Karen Whitney, Interim Chancellor and Vice President, University of Illinois Springfield

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joan Sestak, Chair
Cindy Ervin, Vice Chair
Joy Roberts, Secretary

Evan Barber	Zach Logsdon	Jeff Sudduth
Brian Beckerman	Kara McElwrath	Jay Swenson
Jillian Briggs	Erica Michael	Natalie Taylor
Sadie Furman	Lorie Mick	Cynthia Thompson
Jason Gibson	Marsha Neposchlan	Mary Umbarger
Jackie Gillock	Jason Noyes	Robin Vansacik
Betsy Goulet	Erich O'Connor	Marie Watson
Ann Graffagna	Carol Reese	Jamie Weber
Rebekah Grosboll	Sarah Sagmoen	Randy Williams
AJ Hamm	Linda Schneider	Kevin Zepp
Monica Kroft	Teresa Seacrist	

The Employee of the Month/Year Program recognizes those employees who have served the University in an exceptional manner. Nominees must be active employees who show outstanding merit, employees who perform outstanding services through their work and through a positive and supportive attitude.

2021 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

The titles in this program reflect the position held by the Employee of the Month at the time he/she was honored.

February



Sean Crawford

News Director; NPR Illinois

Sean's nominator said he "truly exemplifies NPR Illinois' mission to 'Explain Illinois' by informing, analyzing and engaging listeners. He wants to make NPR Illinois an outstanding news organization that is a feather in the cap of UIS, and takes pride in doing so." In his role as news director, he has mentored many UIS Public Affairs Reporting master's program interns who have gone on to work at other news organizations around the country. "He takes great pride in giving many of those accomplished journalists a start at NPR Illinois," said his nominator.

March

Jeremy Durbin

Building Service Foreman; Campus Recreation



Jeremy is known for taking initiative and pride in his work. "Though he has a list of daily duties, Jeremy continually looks for ways to make TRAC look better and he takes great pride in how the facility looks and operates," said his nominator. "It is important to him that it is clean and looks good both for our students and visitors." Durbin's supervisor says he's been working "above and beyond" to keep TRAC clean and disinfected during the pandemic. He created an hour-by-hour disinfectant plan that allows him and the other BSW in TRAC to stay on schedule.

April



Nikita Hutchings

Business Administrative Associate;
University Bursar Office

Nikita's nominator called her willingness to help students, parents and colleagues "remarkable." "Her famous ending to any conversation is 'I'm happy to help!' She doesn't just say that - she truly means it," her nominator said. "Nikita exemplifies good customer service in her words and actions. Her positive attitude towards people and her job makes her a great team player and an asset to UIS." Nikita is always looking for ways to improve processes. She recently became the trainer for the Bursar's customer service staff at all three universities.

May

Valerie Gebhardt

Alcohol & Drug Prevention Coordinator;
Counseling Center

Valerie's nominator praises her for believing that "at UIS we all have value." She has been involved since day one with Safe Zone Training, which helps to educate the UIS students, faculty and staff about LGBTQIA+ topics, and was part of the initial campus presence for the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). Her nominator says she "sees" people and provides a safe place to encourage them to find their voice. "Valerie is a living example of Leadership lived both on campus and in the community," said her nominator.



June



Bethany Bilyeu

Executive Director; Student Support Services

Bethany has led UIS' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing testing, contact tracing, vaccination clinics and outreach to the state and local health department. At the start of the pandemic, it was Bilyeu herself who volunteered to coordinate the University's response. "Bethany is extremely dependable; she is one of the first people to identify areas of need within our community and takes the lead to address the needs and make improvements,"

her supervisor said. "She is an amazing asset to our University community."

July

Emily Boles

Online Learning and Faculty Development
Specialist; Center for Online Learning, Research
and Service (COLRS)

Emily was nominated by a faculty member, who praised her and the COLRS team, for helping campus transition from the Blackboard to Canvas learning management system (LMS). "Migrating to a new LMS during the pandemic has been challenging for the campus. Through her skill, kindness, and care for others has made the process less daunting for faculty with whom she has worked," her supervisor said. Emily also went "above and beyond" to help faculty move from regular instruction to remote learning during the start of the pandemic.



August



Stacey Gilmore

Director; Cox Children's Center

Stacey's nominator praised her and the staff at the Center for going "above and beyond" during the pandemic to help children and families. "During the state of Illinois stay-at-home period in 2020, they were helping families with activities to keep children engaged and learning, meals and even virtual classroom meetings, so the kids could see their friends," said her nominator. Stacey and her staff reopened the Center as

soon as they were able to do so, introduced health and safety precautions and adding a school-aged classroom to help parents with remote learning.

September

Adam Hall

Head Men's Soccer Coach; Athletics

Adam was nominated based on his support of the UIS Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI). "Adam believes that all faculty and staff should be vigorously involved in recruiting students to UIS whether for academics, athletics or both," his nominator said. He has marketed the GPSI program to other coaches and holds monthly check in meetings with the program. His supervisor also praised him for going "over and beyond" to make sure his student-athletes were taken care of during the pandemic.



October



Kristin Nisbet-White

Employer Development & Informatics Liaison;
Career Development Center

During the pandemic, Kristin has found new ways to safely connect students and employers, while always helping students present themselves in the best manner. "The pandemic forced us to look at new ways of providing services and Kristin helped others feel comfortable

embracing those new strategies and systems so that we could all work together smoothly with minimal stress about the unknown," said her supervisor. Kristin continually improves her skills, which includes becoming the subject matter expert on system changes and earning new certifications.

November

Robert (Bob) Baker

Culinary Worker I; Food Service

Bob's nominators describe him as a person who "works his tail off." His supervisor said he is honest, full of integrity, dependable, reliable and has a great attitude. On a daily basis, Bob does his job without complaint. He cleans appliances, pots and pans, sweeps, mops and takes the trash out in order to keep the UIS Food Studio clean and functioning for students, faculty and staff. "Bob brings a commitment to his job, however more important is his helpfulness with others," his supervisor said. "Bob comes to work each morning wanting to do a good job."



December



Denise Rothenbach

Executive Assistant; Student Affairs

The student who nominated Denise said she "goes above and beyond what she is asked to do every day of the week. She works late and comes in early to do what she can for the university. She often puts other's needs above her own and does her best every day." She has worked at UIS for 15 years, recently moving from Residence Life to the Vice Chancellor's Office. In her current role, she is responsible for managing business functions and budgets. Outside of the office, she is very supportive of the Civil Service Advisory Council and other university events.

**Nominate
someone for
Employee of
the Month:
eom.uis.edu**



**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1983**



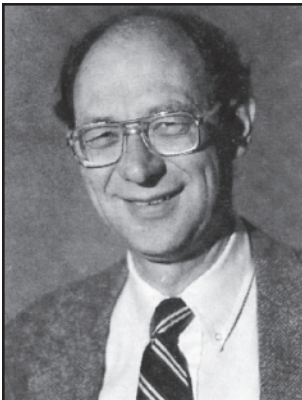
PHYLLIS MICHAEL
Administrative Aide
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1984**



SHIRLEY MAURATH
Library Technical Assistant II
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1985**



**CHARLES
SCHWEIGHAUSER**
Professor of Environmental
Studies
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1986**



**BARBARA
BLANKENSHIP**
Program Administrative
Assistant
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1987**



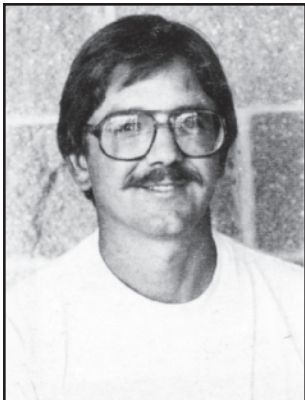
DOTTIE TROOP
Director of Applied Study
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1988**



BILL BLOEMER
Dean of School of Liberal Arts & Science
Professor, Chemistry &
Medical Technology
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1989**



BILL HILL
Maintenance Repair Worker
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1990**



ELIZABETH WEIR
Clayville Coordinator
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1991**



LINDA McCAFFREY
Chief Accountant
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1992**



JUDY EVERSON
Special Assistant to the President
Associate Professor,
Speech, English
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1993**



RAVEN PULLIAM
Food Service Chef
Cafeteria
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1994**



NANCY AYERS
Placement Director
Graduate Public Service Internship
Program
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1995**



JAMIE VOYLES

Inventory Record
Control Supervisor
Business and
Administrative Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1996**



LYNNE PRICE

Health Service Nurse
Student Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1997**



BRUCE BERGSCHNEIDER

Collection Specialist III
Business and Administrative Affairs

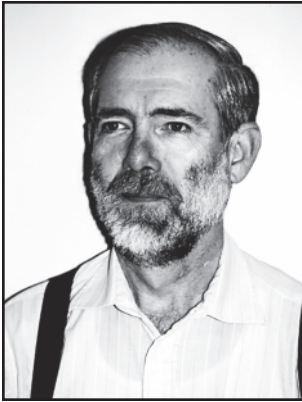
**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1998**



JANIS SANTINI

Network Analyst
Technology Support

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 1999**



GARY BUTLER
Associate Professor
Biology and Teacher Education

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2000**



RAY SCHROEDER
Director of Office of Technology
Enhanced Learning/ Professor of
Communications

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2001**



LINDA SQUIRES
Administrative Clerk
Physical Planning & Operations
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2002**



SUSAN GUNDY
Network Specialist II
Campus Technology Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2003**



MARY WILSON
Building Service Worker I
Business and Administrative Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2004**



JAMES KASPER
Electrician
Physical Plant and Operations

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2005**



MARY ELLEN McELLIGOTT
Coordinator
Conference Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2006**



CYNTHIA THOMPSON
Director of Student Life
Student Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2007**



DOUG SHELEY
Building Service Sub-Foreman
Facilities & Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2008**



TAMMY CRAIG
Director of Career Services
Career Development Center

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2009**



BOB LAEL
Human Resource Assistant Manager
Human Resources

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2010**



KARA M^CELWRATH
Training Specialist
Information Technology Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2011**



SHAWN SHURES
Assistant Director
Graduate Recruitment
GPSI

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2012**



RANDY WILLIAMS
Food Service Administrator IV
Food Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2013**



CAROLYN NEITZKE
Director
Conference Services
Facilities and Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2014**



DANNY LAU
Food Service Worker III
Food Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2015**



ERIC NEEDHAM
Mailing Equipment Operator
Campus Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2016**



JOY THIBADEAU
Assistant to the Vice Chancellor
for Graduate Education
Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2017**



JASON GIBSON
Building Service Supervisor
Facilities Scheduling Services

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2018**



JAY SWENSON
Assistant Director of Competitive Sports
and Facilities; Campus Recreation

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2019**



JAMIE WEBER
Administrative Aide, Brookens Library

**EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR, 2020**



JASON NOYES
IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator
Information Technology Services

UIS STRATEGIC
Compass
2028

Mission

The University of Illinois Springfield provides a uniquely student-centered educational experience both in and out of the classroom through active learning, meaningful research and impactful civic engagement that prepares graduates to contribute fully to society.

Vision

The University of Illinois Springfield will be a pathway to opportunity, a catalyst for change and a space of possibility where learners become ethical and passionate scholars, leaders and citizens capable of transforming their local and global communities.

PAST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

1982-1983

Helen Lash
Marilyn Sue Dozier
Mary J. MacDonald
Phyllis Michael
Gloria Casey
Everett Bell
Pearl Mounce
Steve Voyles
Roy Nance
Charline Bradley
Jackie Wright
Drena Stickel
Elizabeth Purnell
Jackie Nixon

1984

Sue Ann Dixon
Nadine Sisti
Bill Bryan
Curtis Carlson
Jeanne Enlow
Shirley Maurath
Lula Lester
Sharon Hill
Margaret Turner
Lois Weissberg

1985

Charles Schweighauser
James Ford
Ginger Mayer
Ethel Lynn Neville
Audrey Blalock
Mary Hummel
Gene Yost
Sue Williamson
Barbara Ferrara
Carolyn Bardos
Quintanilla
Ann Tate

1986

Barbara Blankenship
Gladys Baggerly
Joellyn Hohimer
Larry Davis
Shirley Crayton
Martha McGill
Ruth Johnston
Carole Kennerly
Norma Funk

1987

Dottie Troop
Stan Warman
Judy Clanton
Candy Corrigan Powers
Betty Pera
Blanca Bernasek
Larry Korte
Diane Long
Sue Masten
Marian Levin
Debbie Gill

1988

Mary Beth Maloney
Dick Williams
Dwight Emerson
Ray Schroeder
Harold Fahs
Bill Bloemer
Al Barnhart
Maryanne Zbyinski
Polly Myers
Aydin Gonulsen
Luis Villamonte

1989

Sherral Clark
Barbara Klintworth
Rebecca Veach
Mary Wilson
Bill Hill
Sharron Schmidt
Gerlinde Coates
Doreen Benoit
Nancy Stump
Bob Raebig

1990

Delbert Jackson
Jean Reeder
Sandra Bristow
Elizabeth Weir
Porter McNeil
Rebecca Gillespie
Camilla Reimer
Jane Lauer
John Schaub
Martha Robertson
Jim Korte

1991

Rebecca Wilkin
Jim Davis
Margaret Knoepfle
Carol Moore Gustafson
Howard Bailey
Jan Morrow
Emily Schirding
Virginia Davenport
Linda McCaffrey
Jim Newbanks
Juliet Slack

PAST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH *(continued)*

1992

Debra Culler
Bill Ulery
Judy Everson
Brian Patton
Paul Wells
Betty Harryman
Dale Abeln
Dennis Scheibe
Carol Powell
Wally Wheeler
Judy Bohlen

1993

Roy Thomas
Chuck Baumgardner
Joan Buckles
Carol Wendling
Curt Neitzke
Raven Pulliam
Marsha Branson
Jon Quigg
Don Walcher
Donnita Good
Cindy Ervin

1994

Harry Strode
Donna Tucker
Emily Poulliard
Dick Schuldt
Carol Bloemer
Charlene Lambert
Dave Antoine
Donna Schaub
Jim Pancrazio
Nancy Ayers
Ron Browning

1995

Terry Powell
Carolyn Sackett
Cheryl Peck
Carol Spence
Cherrill Kimbro
Todd Rotroff
Jamie Voyles
John Solomon
Keith Knutilla
Aaron Shures
Michael Moore

1996

Lynne Price
Helen Wrightsman
Sharon Norris
Betty LaFountain
Janice Marvel
Charlotte Peebles
Julie Atwell
Kathy E. Miller
Angie Pezold
June Hamilton
Carole Fisher

1997

Fred Dungan
Tisha Higgason
Deborah McGregor
Chuck Orwig
Donna Hullman
Mary Sheila Tracy
Debbie Kasarsky Downs
Margaret Kristjanson
Samme Schramm
Bruce Bergschneider
Marcia Rossi

1998

Rob Raleigh
John Sefick
Thomas Durr
Chris Ryan
Terry Pryor
Sara Storm
Cheryl Ecklund
Brenda Newton
Janis Santini
Lyn King
Larry Swartz
Ed Wojcicki

1999

Jan Renn
Carol McClure Tandy
Brenda Suhling
Karen Owens
Allan Young
Mary Elizabeth Smith
Lynn Otterson
Karl Scroggin
Kay Hart
Melissa Little
Gary Butler

2000

Ray Schroeder
Joe Beaghan
Diana Nelson
Barbara Larcher
Lezli Austen
Patricia Wood
Janice Hurley
Nancy Simpson
Carolyn Thomas
Tammy McCormick
Jeanette Skaar

PAST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH *(continued)*

2001

Nancy Ford
Laura Fox
JoAnn Isaacs
Nell Smock
Sue Feger
Peggy Kitchen
Evelyn Tillman
Holly McCracken
Ruth Cook
Linda Squires
Maureen Dowdy

2002

John Jones
Sandi McGill
Susan Gundy
Ted Mims
Sherry Orme
Barbara Jensen
Pat Jannesse
Debbie Gill
Larry Griffiths
Jackie Gillock

2003

Jerry Peebles
Andy Egizi
Rosa Bryan
Lawrence Johnson
Peggy Boyer Long
Peggy Lister
Beverly Weddle
Farokh Eslahi
Wendy Withrow
Larz Gaydos
Mary Wilson

2004

Joan Sestak
James Kasper
Shari McCurdy
Jana Wise
Carmelita Washington
Robert Walker
Scott Nafziger
Christopher Miller
Patti Sims
Barbara Cass
Carol Esarey

2005

Carole Rahn
Kimberly Rutherford
Mary Ellen McElligott
Sherry Hutson
Carmen Dinardo
Patricia Forgas
Stephen Rohrer
Rodney Pettus
Mae Noll
Beth Gorsich
Abdelmoneim Osman

2006

Steve Marvel
Brian Clevenger
Carolyn Cerven
Paul MacDonna
Marque Hauptert
Teresa Szabo
Mike Bloechle
Cynthia Thompson
Kemy Brown
Sherri Boner
Steve Chrans

2007

Kathryn Kleeman
Lisa Clemmons-Stott
Brian Beckerman
John Ringle
Doug Sheley
Bill Ulery
Dale Abeln
Patsy Nation
Krystal Wilson
Melanie Smith
Pat Austin

2008

Ron Peddicord, Sr.
Donna Young
Tammy Craig
Dennis Jones
Sharon Heflin
Alice Bettis
Donna Schaub
Jill Voyles
Frank Moscardelli
Rowena Vail
Chrisa Potthast

2009

Emily Welch Boles
Tom Micklus
Patricia Stoutamyer
Bob Lael
Kimberly Craig
Pam Rodgers
Michelle Green
Laurie Koehne
Terry Minder
Bobbie Fults
Patty Sullivan

PAST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH *(continued)*

2010

Kara McElwrath
Susy Woods
Natalie Taylor
Beth Hoag
Ron Turner
Amanda Bly
Pinky Wassenberg
Gale Kilbury
Lori Giordano
Kathy Henry
Greg Mayes

2011

Andrew Fitzpatrick
Tyler Tanaka
Raymond Barnett
James Burgdorf
Brian Truter
Lindsey Feger
Marsha Nepochlan
Wendy Johnson
Shawn Shures
Teresa Seacrist
Kevin Zepp

2012

Gloria Newton Devlantis
Karen Headrick
Amanda Winters
Julie Atwell
Erica Michael
Randy Williams
Jill Menezes
Patsy Nation
Donald Fay
Deb Ply

2013

Sarah Sagmoen
John Stanulis
Tulio Llosa
Keith Burton
Evan Stanley
Karen Fagg
Keith McMath
Jim Ermatinger
Blake Wood
Chad Athey
Carolyn Neitzke

2014

Lori Pinney
Cecil Peveler
Danny Lau
Dennis Kreher
Candy Tucker
Beverly Bunch
Joy Roberts
Karen Guthrie-Coleman
Ted Mims
Bill Ablor
Becky Prather

2015

Eric Needham
Cecilia Cornell
Eric Chrans
Rance Carpenter
Sadie Furman
Kristin Kruger
Geoff Evans
Josie Negro
Jeff Sudduth
Zach Logsdon
Janelle Gurnsey

2016

Karina Moore
Vickie Cook
Rebekah Grosboll
Nicole Meisner
Jay Chaplin
Joy Thibadeau
Monica Kroft
Kara Lawyer
Carol Reese
Meagan McChristy
Chuck Coderko

2017

Melanie Trimm
Booker Crombie
Samantha Riss
Ann Graffagna
Jerry Joseph
Mohan Chevuri
Jason Gibson
Robert "Joe" Taylor
Mary Umbarger
Judy Hughes
Brian Moore

2018

Alice Seaton
Betsy Goulet
Amy Zepp
Tamara Boeker
Jillian Briggs
Charles Wells
Jay Swenson
John Crouch
Dana Marmino
Pamela Scott
Evan Barber

PAST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH *(continued)*

2019

Brian Beckerman
Jaime Weber
Michelle Vinson
Joey Moughan
Carly Shank
Ashlyn Beasley
Linda Nixon
Erich O'Connor
Linda Schneider
Kathleen Camarano
Don Fay

2020

Katherine Batee-Freeman
James Gleeson
Nicole Hager
Albert Hamm
Connie Komnick
Lorie Mick
Jason Noyes
Chrisa Potthast
Justin Rose
Robin Vansacik
Marie Watson

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS | SPRINGFIELD



Prairie Stars
Rise to Their Potential.