OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

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Speechless, Brown accepts AP of Year Award

By **Mary E. Iorio**, OU Writer

After 34 years at Oakland University, Len Brown was rendered nearly speechless on Sept. 18 when awarded $1,000 and the title of Outstanding Administrative Professional for 2002.

As OU's lab manager for the School of Engineering and Computer Science, Brown ensures that about 40 labs in four different university buildings are properly equipped and working for researchers and students.

That, said OU President Gary Russi during the Sept. 18 AP Assembly, has helped the university prepare its students properly for their careers.

"As part of our Vision 2010, we want every student to have a research or lab opportunity that will take them effortlessly into the working world. Len's work is perfect for getting us to that goal," Russi said. "You are doing things, Len, that make our students top candidates for employers."

Brown stepped forward to accept a plaque and check from Russi and Jennifer Gilroy, president of the AP Assembly.

"I'll just hand this check right over to my wife," Brown joked. "We've been married 40 years… I'm not a speechmaker, but I will thank you for this and for being here today. So, I thank you. Is that enough?"

Brown's soft-spoken speech received great applause from the nearly 50 people in attendance.

Brown was one of seven people considered for the recognition. The award recognizes his extraordinary efforts in support of the institutional mission and strategic plan, his spirit of cooperation and his community and university service.

As the university's mission changed to focus more heavily on research and lab experience, Brown's workload grew but he never complained. Instead, he worked harder to keep equipment functioning properly.

Despite his long tenure at OU, Brown has no plans to retire, said his wife Beverly Brown. "He loves the students and he loves what he does everyday. He always comes home with funny stories about what happened each day. Every day is unique and he takes joy out of it."

As if winning the award were not enough, Brown learned on the same day that his youngest grandchild took her first steps. Said his wife: "We thought maybe she was trying to celebrate grandpa's big day."

SUMMARY
After 34 years at OU, Len Brown was rendered nearly speechless when awarded $1,000 and the title of Outstanding Administrative Professional for 2002. As the School of Engineering and Computer Science lab manager, Brown ensures that about 40 labs in four different university buildings are properly equipped and working for researchers and students. The award recognizes his extraordinary efforts in support of the institutional mission and strategic plan, his spirit of cooperation and his community and university service.