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## Employee of the Month program revamped

By *Michelle Strunge*, OU Writer

After gathering input from dozens of Oakland University employees across campus, University Human Resources is gearing up to relaunch a revitalized Employee of the Month program. The program honors outstanding individuals whose contributions reflect involvement in and for the benefit of OU. Set to resume with the January 2005 Employee of the Month award, the renewed program offers enhanced recognition rewards.

"Focus groups with past Employee of the Month honorees, those who have nominated employees for this award and others across campus reinforced that recognition is important to OU employees and that our Employee of the Month program is a valuable one," said Gail Ryckman, employment manager, UHR.

Focus group participants weighed in on the benefits of the current program and offered suggestions for changes or additions.

"We received fantastic ideas and input, reviewed all of it, and then balanced it against the overall purpose of the program and its budget," Ryckman said. "The new benefits connect our honorees to campus in special, significant ways."

The new benefits include:

- a designated OU parking spot for the month honored;
- Golden Grizzlies shirt from The Grizz Shop;
- pair of tickets to a Golden Grizzlies basketball game;
- recognition plaque;
- OU travel mug;
- recognition at the annual State of the University address and on OU's Web site;
- honored with guest at an annual end-of-year dinner;

Honorees are nominated by co-workers and other OU community members and chosen by a committee of previous winners. Qualities considered are:

- positive attitude;
- dedication and work ethic above and beyond required duties;
- exceptional performance that results in greater workplace efficiency, including increased revenues, productivity and/or morale;
- promotion of teamwork and positive working relationships;
- enthusiastic support of OU's 2010 vision through alignment of their work with the university's goals.

If you know a stellar OU employee who exemplifies three or more of the above characteristics, nominate them for the Employee of the Month award by completing the **Employee of the Month Nomination Form** online. The first honoree under the revamped program will be named in January 2005.

### SUMMARY

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