

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

OU EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

May 6, 2024

We honor the faculty and staff whose commitment to Oakland University may be marked in years, but whose contributions cannot be measured in mere numbers. Ten, twenty, thirty, forty years of service has one thing in common -- "to serve."

What is so remarkable about the faculty and staff who we are honoring is that they share a commitment to serving, and do so in their unique, individual ways.

As a university, our mission is to serve. To serve our students, our communities; to serve by promoting education as a means of opportunity, civility and progress.

Our time together is truly about service. It's about *servicing* our students...How we support them as we help them form the foundation of learning that will define their lives. It's about *servicing* our communities through our engagement, working side by side to elevate the quality and impact of education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

And of course, service means *service to each other*, working together to build a campus community based on respect, compassion, inclusivity, and collaboration.

Your service demonstrates the type of dedication and sense of purpose that distinguishes you as a role model and leader. Some of you may lead by standing up. Some may lead quietly. But each of you is a role model and leader in your own way.

Your longevity is a reflection of your commitment. And your time at Oakland is a reflection of your passion...your values... your priorities.

There are many reasons for longevity. And there is much wisdom that is derived from longevity.

Longevity may depend on your health, your frame of mind and ability to adapt, put things into perspective, and I believe, longevity is enhanced by our desire to dream.

Collectively, our dream...our aspiration... is for our university to be a force in broadening minds and opening hearts to the possibilities of the human spirit.

On behalf of Oakland University, please know how much we appreciate you, and all that you've done and continue to do to serve our *students, our communities* and our *campus*.