

Oct. 6, 2021

Good afternoon,

I hope everyone continues to be healthy and follows our health guidelines. As we are quickly coming up on flu season, I urge each of us to get our annual flu shot. I got mine last Friday. Please help to keep campus as safe and healthy as possible and to keep the workload manageable for our campus healthcare providers.

Each year we recognize and honor several individuals who have provided exceptional service to the university and the community. We announce these awards at graduation or the annual state of the university address. Given the virtual events we have been holding, I'd like to announce this year's winners in this week's message as part of the [2021 State of the University](#):

**President's Distinguished Staff Award** goes to **Mr. Tim Pelesky**. Tim is serving as the Interim Director for IT. While Tim has been an integral player and leader in FSU's IT operations, his efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic have been exceptional. He has led and implemented the University's COVID-19 check-in app. The application and its many reporting functions have made the monitoring of campus safety, along with administration and recording of easily accessible and seamless testing and reporting, possible. He has accomplished that with humility and little recognition beyond that from those working with him as part of the COVID-19 recovery team.

**President's Distinguished Faculty Award** goes to **Dr. Janet Mattern**. Janet has not only excelled as a teacher and advisor but has also contributed significantly in service to the Education program and the University. For example, she was instrumental to the success of maintaining accreditation, as well as the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant. This award recognizes her collegiality and commitment to the success of her colleagues and students.

**Staff Award for Excellence: Exempt** goes to **Mr. Patrick O'Brien**. Patrick serves as director of the Office of Civic Engagement. He has grown in his position to become a regional and national leader in volunteerism, national service, service learning, civic learning and democratic engagement. His "footprint" over the years has included millions of dollars of grant funding and relationships with dozens of nonprofit, governmental and educational institutions in connection with ASTAR in Western Maryland, along with playing a key role in events like Beautify the Burg, Relay For Life and the Maryland Special Olympic Games.

**Staff Award for Excellence: Non-Exempt** goes to **Mrs. Crystal Miller**. Crystal is an administrative assistant for Student Affairs. After serving in Athletics and the office of the President, she was hired in Student Affairs and immediately began making an impact in the physical, technological and communications environment in the office. She greets everyone with a smile while managing multiple projects and responding to students in need. She also co-chairs FSU's Maryland Charities Campaign and volunteers to support the Washington Children's Hospital.

**Staff Award for Excellence: Non-exempt, Facilities/Maintenance** goes to **Mr. Bill Patterson**. Bill is the temperature control in the HVAC shop for Facilities and Maintenance. Over his tenure, his role has changed because of his willingness to take on new tasks and learn new systems, such as the new HVAC mechanical systems and the energy management system. Always willing to help, his historical knowledge of FSU's HVAC systems and his natural leadership qualities have proved very valuable.

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues!

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