Daryl Maurice Odom

Thirty years ago, housekeeper Daryl Maurice Odom joined the University to begin a career of faithful, dedicated and exemplary service. His attention to detail and skill in caring for the Kenan Center, his loyalty to the University, and his devotion to his job and those who work with him set standards of excellence for every member of the Carolina campus community. In the words of a colleague, “Daryl’s devotion to high standards, his respect for his environment and his collegial attitude toward co-workers, staff and visitors to the Kenan Center make him a wonderful role model for other employees.”

Senior administrators from the Kenan Center, Kenan-Flagler Business School and the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust nominated Daryl in gratitude for his professionalism and the goodwill he engenders in others. “Daryl is an excellent example of an employee whose faithful service makes a difference every day,” wrote a nominator. “From his appearance to his demeanor to his job performance, he is a great asset to us here at the business school and Kenan Center.” In another nomination, a colleague wrote, “Daryl is one of the most hard working, friendly, well-mannered and caring people I’ve had the pleasure to work with. He performs so many duties that can easily go unnoticed but plays an important role in the success of our facility.”

Daryl takes it upon himself to learn the needs and habits of those with whom he works. He takes every opportunity to contribute to their comfort, health and security. “Daryl is meticulous in his work. He takes great pride in maintaining the Kenan Center in pristine condition. He respects the building, its occupants and the philanthropy that provided this extraordinary conference center and home for the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and Funds.” A Kenan Trust trustee said: “He is a hard worker, loyal, friendly and he loves UNC.”
As a member of Housekeeping Services, Daryl upholds the values of integrity, accountability, service and trust, and he inspires them in others. “Whatever task is required, Daryl brings the highest level of performance and commitment to perfection,” wrote a co-worker. “It is core to who he is as a person and as an employee.” By doing his job with skill and distinction, he contributes to his colleagues’ productivity and wellbeing. As one nominator wrote, “His commitment and selflessness are unmatched.” Another said, “After 30 years, the Kenan Center still looks almost new, and I credit Daryl and his work ethic as a key part of that.”

In recognition of his longstanding and outstanding job performance through the years, Daryl was honored during the Employee Forum Peer Recognition Award Ceremony with the Call of Duty Award for those who go above and beyond their job expectations. In words of high praise, one nominator wrote, “To see Daryl is to recognize that this is a person who takes pride in all he does.”

For his abiding devotion to the University; for his dedication to unsurpassed service to the Kenan Center; for the sense of community and collegiality he maintains and fosters on campus and in the workplace; because — in the words of a nominator — “It's an honor to know Daryl and count him as a friend and colleague,” Daryl Maurice Odom receives the 2018 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award.