



The Davidson Staff Award

The Elizabeth W. and Joseph K. Davidson Staff Award is presented each year to a staff member that best represents the values and principles of Mount Union. For the Davidson Staff Award, we would like to recognize and honor Cara McEldowney.

Cara has been at Mount Union in the Office of Information Technology for 26 years. In all her years of service she has been caring, dedicated, hard-working, and goes above and beyond for the support of the Institution. During an academic year filled with uncertainty and adjustment, Cara has been a steady and reliable presence on campus, especially for faculty during the time of transition to online learning. Those who nominated Cara explained:

“Faculty had five days to prepare all their courses and if it was not for Cara McEldowney, most of us would not have been successful (or able to cope!). She stepped up the plate with her kindness, patience, and humility to prepare not only the faculty, but also the staff, to move to online teaching and online meetings and discussions. Without Cara, we would have been very crippled.”

“She has saved me countless hours with her advice. She is by far my most reliable and important resource right now.”

Cara has been on call, online, on the phone, and on email 24/7 for what seems like years, but this year, and in particular, in the last two months, Cara has been a calm, get-it-done presence for all the faculty as we transitioned to distance and online teaching. Cara's like the mom who never shows she's tired or frustrated by you; in a word, she's a saint.

Cara, we can't do any year without you, but we absolutely could not have done this year without you.

“She is a true professional always going above and beyond to find a solution to your problem. I can't think of a person more deserving of this award during our COVID-19 crisis.”

“Cara exhibits extreme amounts of patience and knowledge. She's the kind of person who wants you to learn to be independent, but knows that independence comes in small steps, over time.”

“I like to compare her to Wonder Woman!”

Congratulations, Cara!