

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

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Physical plant technician receives staff excellence award

MONMOUTH – Western Oregon University honored lead HVAC control technician John Henslee with the Mario and Alma Pastega Staff Excellence Award for 2004-05.

Henslee has been a part of WOU for over 25 years. He spent four years working toward a degree in secondary teaching, but with two requirements remaining he decided to take a break. After about a year he returned to WOU as a staff member and has been part of the physical plant team for over 20 years. His primary role is to take care of maintenance needs within the residence halls.

“John is a problem solver, a trouble-shooter, and a visionary all rolled into one person,” said Tina Fuchs, director of university residences. “As a result of his efforts, our residence halls operate more efficiently, custodial and maintenance call-backs have been reduced significantly, and our students’ overall satisfaction rate of their living environments is much higher.”

Several staff members nominated Henslee for the award and they praised him for his dedication to WOU and its students. Many who work with him know Henslee as an upbeat and positive person with a can-do attitude.

The students are Henslee’s favorite part of his job. “College students are great to be around,” he said, “they haven’t gotten cynical like the over-40 crowd.” He added that residence hall move-in is his favorite time of year because all of the students are so happy and excited to be beginning college.

Outside of WOU, Henslee spends most of his free time with his family, including a 7-year-old son and two daughters aged 20 and 23. He is also very committed to his church, where he spent 10 years teaching a Bible study course to students.

The Mario and Alma Pastega Staff Excellence Award honors a classified or administrative staff member who demonstrates exceptional service to the university.

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John Henslee

