2012 President’s Distinguished Service Awards

2012 Recipient for the First Five Years – Outstanding Contribution Award

Chris Secord – Physics & Astronomy

Chris Secord joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy as a machinist in 2008 and assumed leadership of the shop two years later.

He was immediately faced with completing the first major reorganization of the shop—the largest dedicated machining space on campus—in 40 years. A daunting task, but one Chris showed he had the skills and vision to accomplish beyond expectations. The shop now serves and supports researchers in a number of departments across campus, always working to the highest standards while often finding creative ways to economize without compromising quality.

Department Chair Robert Kowalewski says that ‘Chris has made outstanding contributions that strengthen the learning and research environment, and he serves, through his personal integrity and commitment to excellence, as an example for the entire university community to emulate.’

Chris also has an admirable sense of being part of a larger team, seen daily as he provides skilled and effective mentorship to graduate students building custom scientific instruments in the shop.

Robert Kowalewski also shared that ‘Although his obvious focus is the machine shop, he can see the bigger picture, [Chris] knows the crucial role his shop plays in the realization of the teaching and research missions of the department and university, and he has a deep commitment and loyalty to our institution.’