Margie Lawrence credited with bringing residence hall housekeeping into 21st century
by LAURA NEFF-HENDERSON, APR

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“Margie embodies the essence of a true model employee,” said Tim Gift, associate director of facility management and Lawrence’s direct supervisor. “She cares deeply about the students, her employees, and the university.”

Lawrence came to Virginia Tech more than 33 years ago, in 1980 and has worked her way up the professional ladder from a janitorial supervisor to the assistant director for housekeeping and furnishings for the residence hall system.

“Knowing that we are providing a successful cleaning program that keeps our facilities clean and healthy, and provides a pleasant environment in which our students can live and learn is the other part of what I enjoy most about my job.”

Her good work doesn’t go unnoticed.

Lawrence is a registered executive housekeeper and an active member of the International Executive Housekeepers Association (IEHA). She served as president of the Central Virginia chapter in 1994, 1996, and 1999. She’s also a graduate of the adult marketing program with more than 330 hours of IEHA coursework and is a graduate of the Virginia Supervisors Institute. Lawrence also taught IEHA adult classes at Roanoke City Public Schools and completed courses at New River Community College in the Business and Industrial Supervision program after her children graduated from high school.

She has received numerous accolades over the years for her efforts within her profession and adult education. She has received the:

• IEHA Executive Housekeeper of the Year Award (1994)
• Educator of the Year Award for Adult Education from Roanoke City Schools (1995)
• Division of Student Affairs Heroine Award (1995)

She has also been featured on the cover of Executive Housekeeper Today magazine (March 2011) and Cleaning and Maintenance magazine (April 2011).

“Margie really is an asset to Virginia Tech,” said Glenn Walthall, housekeeping manager, Student Affairs. “She truly has a passion for her service to the university in the true spirit of US Postal. She constantly looks for better ways of doing things and translates this to good housekeeping policy and procedures to everyone’s benefit.”

One of eight children, it’s clear that her faith and her family are among those things most important to her in life. Her crew comes together for dinner every Sunday.

In addition to their love of sports, the family also shares a love for the outdoors, enjoying hiking and fishing together. They also enjoy spending time with their grandchildren.

Margie Lawrence, right, talks with two of the university’s residence hall housekeepers.

About this series
The Extraordinary Employee series highlights the achievements of Virginia Tech employees who go above and beyond, making a difference in the lives of others on campus and in the community.


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