



May 1, 2024

Dear University Senate Awards Committee,

On behalf of Mr. Frank Barber, please accept this interview to express his sincerest appreciation of this high honor.

Interview:

Mr. Frank, thank you for your service to Louisiana Tech University, since 1979. Your colleagues have nominated you for the Outstanding Service Award- Classified. Mr. Frank what does this nomination mean to you?

It means a great deal to me. I'm honored!

Thinking back from 1979, what have you enjoyed most about your time at Louisiana Tech University?

You know, I've seen a lot of changes. So much has improved since 1979, and things were a lot harder back in the day. We had to do a lot of work to get the campus to where it is today. I have seen a whole lot of changes. But you know, everything needs change, and to witness that change makes me feel good. I have worked with four presidents now: Drs. F. Jay Taylor, Dan Reneau, Les Guice, and now Jim Henderson. You know what I have enjoyed is being able to witness the change, work outdoors, and more importantly, the people. The people make work enjoyable.

You know sometimes I will be shopping, and someone will say, "Hi, Mr. Frank" and I will turn and ask them how I know them. One time when I was in the mall, a man replied, "I graduated in the 90's" and then we shared stories about the campus. Visits like this happen to me often and make me feel so good.

Could you share a time when you went above and beyond your job responsibilities to ensure the grounds were well kept?

I've worked during ice storms and after the tornado. Cleaning up fallen trees and the long hours to get the campus back to operating. Back in the day, we used to have a call out system and when the phone would ring, I would be back to campus making sure we could function.

What does it mean to be recognized for your hard work?

It is an honor; I do appreciate this recognition. This makes me feel good that our university recognizes hard work. If you work hard, you should be recognized. I thank them.

Mr. Frank what do these letters of support mean to you? (Letters of support were presented).

This makes me feel so good! (replying with a smile and laughter)

When interviewed by grounds leadership (Zach Mays and Lane King) they shared that Mr. Frank's commitment to maintaining the beauty of our campus grounds is unparalleled. For several decades, he has consistently gone above and beyond his job responsibilities demonstrating superior leadership skills, planning, and organization. Additionally, Mr. Frank's suggestions have led to more efficient and cost-effective methods of accomplishing our work, including collaborating with members of the campus community. He is always willing to lend a helping hand to his co-workers, fostering an atmosphere of cooperation that contributes to the overall effectiveness of the grounds department.

Within this last month, he coordinated planting the quad with pentas collaborating with many members of our campus community for the Love the Boot service event. Coordinating efforts like this is a testament to his superior planning, organizational skills, and favorability of representing the grounds department.



[Groups come together for beautification of campus | Lincoln Parish Journal](#)

His strong work ethic and positive attitude have made him a favorite among alumni, students, faculty, and staff. He takes pride in ensuring that the campus environment is welcoming and well-maintained for all who visit or call Louisiana Tech their home. We cannot imagine this campus without his contributions and presence.

Please accept this nomination packet on behalf of Mr. Frank. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Subject: Support Letter for Mr. Frank Barber's Nomination for the University Outstanding Service Award - Classified

It is my privilege and honor to support the nomination of Mr. Frank Barber for the Louisiana Tech University Outstanding Service Award for classified staff. I have known Frank for most of his career at Louisiana Tech University. I have interacted with him and observed his activities quite often over the past two decades. Having lived on campus at the Ropp Center and President's residence, I have been able to observe his contributions across the campus. I have often observed his work on weekends and after normal working hours. His willingness to work beyond normal working hours has been so valuable and reflects his understanding of the importance of campus activities that support our students, faculty and visitors.

Frank takes great pride in maintaining beautiful grounds and he fully understands the importance of a clean and beautiful campus to the overall success of Louisiana Tech. He pays close attention to all of the flower beds, lawns, trees and other plantings. He knows how important those things are to all of the people who visit our campus. I frequently see him interacting with students, faculty, staff and campus visitors. He has demonstrated leadership for other staff as they fulfill their important responsibilities for the campus.

I have observed Frank's leadership of our grounds staff in difficult environmental and weather conditions. I saw how much effort he demonstrated in helping the campus recover from the recent EF3 tornado and hurricane as well as other major weather events. While these things can be overwhelming to many, Frank has provided competent and confident leadership during recovery.

I have frequently interacted with Frank as he is working on our grounds and flower beds. These conversations always demonstrate Frank's remarkable understanding of his role in making the campus experience wonderful for all who visit. I am always inspired by him and his passion for his work. Frank doesn't often have opportunities for personal recognition so I know that naming him as the recipient of this award will mean so much to him as he wraps up an impactful career at Louisiana Tech.

Sincerely,



Dr. Leslie K. Guice
President Emeritus

5/1/2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The importance of a college campus's appearance has steadily increased the past couple of decades as higher education institutions have become more competitive for new students and securing private support. Attracting and retaining qualified faculty and staff has also become more of a challenge when competing with the private sector and other institutions. The Building and Grounds department of a university has a significant impact on the first impression and daily experience of its students, faculty/staff, alumni, and other visitors to campus.

Over the past twenty plus years of performing various volunteer work on the Louisiana Tech campus, much of which involved Grounds type activities; I have had the pleasure to work with a true professional in the Grounds Department – Frank Barber.

Frank embodies an employee who understands the impact his work has with the various constituents mentioned above. One instance I recall was when we were on the Quad and I commented on how good the sculptured shrubs in front of Howard Auditorium looked. Frank proudly told me he sculptured the bushes and did it because of the several high school graduations being held in May of that year. He thought the graduates and families would be taking pictures and would benefit from using the manicured front entrance as a backdrop.

This is the connection Louisiana Tech would like to see in all its employees so that we can compete for new students and attract / retain employees. People want to be part of an institution that exemplifies excellence. The appearance of the campus sets the tone experienced by everyone, every day. This responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Grounds Crew for which Frank has been and continues to be a key contributor. It takes a lot of resilience, perseverance, motivation, and talent to be a good groundkeeper – Frank has all these attributes and more.

Frank is always friendly and does a first-class job wherever he is working on campus. He readily shares knowledge of plants and their respective maintenance requirements. He is especially proud of maintaining the appearance of the Quad, our most visited part of Tech's core. I wish Tech had more "Franks"!

Justin Hinckley, Class of 1978

5/2/2024

Dear University Senate Awards Committee,

It is my honor to support the nomination of Mr. Frank Barber for the University Outstanding Service Award for classified staff.

For 45 years, Mr. Frank has dedicated himself to Louisiana Tech University and the Grounds Department. Frank is a true leader within our department. After 45 years of service, Frank remains the hardest working member on the crew. He never shies away from a task or project. Frank takes the time to mentor and teach his co-workers because he cares about this beautiful campus and the future of the Grounds Department.

Frank's main responsibilities on campus include maintenance of the Quad, including the Lady of The Mist, annual flower planting campus-wide, tulip bulb planting, and flower bed maintenance. Frank oversaw the planting of 5,652 annual flowers this spring. Frank has seen a lot of flowers in his career, as we plant that same amount in both spring and fall.

Frank understands the importance of his job and the role that it plays in the overall success of the university. He recognizes the significance of first impressions. I believe you can make the argument that his job is the most recognized on campus, especially in the spring when the Quad has 3,000 tulips. The biggest compliment I can give Frank is that he makes my job easier.

I overheard one of Frank's co-workers ask him the week of Dr. Henderson's Investiture why we were working such long, hard hours. Frank's response was, "Because we have company coming." I think that perfectly sums up Mr. Frank. Louisiana Tech and its grounds are home to him. That's why I believe Frank is most deserving of the Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,



Zach Mays
Superintendent of Grounds