



UMB Champions of Excellence

Environmental Services Team



Disinfecting and Connecting

*On the Front Lines:
UMB Champions of
Excellence:
Environmental Services
Team
Office of Administration
and Finance*

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Environmental Services (EVS) team has discovered that reinvention can be a roller coaster.

At the same time government agencies encouraged people to stay home during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the act of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces moved to the top of the to-do list. That's a challenge when you are required to not only come

to work and it's your job to clean and disinfect, but when you also have to relearn your job with new protocols — just like the heroic EVS workers did.

That's a huge undertaking emotionally and physically. But through the past several months, EVS staff members never lost sight of their mission.

"They're a very driven group of people who take pride in what they do," EVS associate director Denise J. Meyer said. "It's a challenge for anyone psychologically to accept that they're on the front lines of this pandemic and exposing themselves to risk of infection more than most other employees."

During the first two weeks of the stay-at-home order, the nearly 200-person team worked tirelessly five days a week to deep-clean every UMB campus building during the day and evening hours. EVS also has three workers at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center in Catonsville.

The hard work has brought EVS together.

“They’ve embraced a more collaborative, family-oriented approach,” Meyer said. “We’re seeing staff really pull together to help one another out. They’re backing each other up more, and they’re working together more seamlessly.”

EVS technicians are now equipped with color-coded microfiber rags to avoid cross-contamination and new equipment to spray chemicals that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for COVID-19 cleaning purposes. They also had to learn a new routine for surface cleaning, concentrating on frequently touched areas and adjusting to new “dwell times,” which the EPA defines as how long a sanitizer or disinfectant must be in contact with a surface and remain wet to achieve the product’s advertised kill rate. And they did it all while keeping a safe physical distance from passersby.

Adjustments continue as more employees and students return to campus. The focus is on quality control and increasing the frequency of the enhanced cleaning procedures to counter the stepped-up foot traffic.

One of the latest creations is a point-of-use cleaning cart, complete with supplies for students, faculty, and staff to do their part in disinfecting high-touchpoint shared spaces.

“All of this is in addition to our pre-COVID work,” Meyer said. “We’re still doing our job. We’re providing all of the services we did before, and we’ve added more services.”

How did EVS become the star of the sanitizing show at UMB? By holding each other to a high standard for cleanliness, hygiene, and respect.

“They really are the stewards of campus,” said Meyer, who added that EVS has effectively championed its mission through the UMB core value of collaboration and the concept of shared responsibility. “This effort is truly a partnership. While we have our part to do on the service end, it truly comes down to everybody doing their part to keep the campus safe and our community healthy.”

- Charles Schelle

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Robert Allen	Manager Custodial Services Evening
Anthony Anderson	Manager Custodial Services
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Dorothea Austin	Custodial Services

George Bahr	Custodial Services
Sharesse Ball	Custodial Services
Karen Bartee	Manager Custodial Services
Joseph Beasley	Custodial Services
Ernest Bell	Asst Dir Custodial Services Shift
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Yahsmin Berry-Bey	Custodial Services
Devonte Bey	Custodial Services
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Cheyawntay Blackmon	Custodial Services
Willette Blanding	Custodial Services
Chamia Blanding	Custodial Services
Corey Blount	Custodial Services
Monica Blyther	Custodial Services
Rita Boone	Custodial Services
David Bowen	Custodial Services
Daphne Bowls	Custodial Services
Lisa Boyd	Custodial Services
Joseph Boydner	Custodial Services
Latrice Bradford	Custodial Services
Joann Braswell	Custodial Services
Jervella Brooks	Custodial Services
Joseph Brown	Custodial Services
Keyia Brown	Custodial Services
Eva Brown	Custodial Services
Willie Brown	Moving/Storage Specialist

Terrance Bryant	Custodial Services
Charles Burrell	Moving/Storage Specialist
Marcus Byrd	Custodial Services
Jacqueline Campbell	Custodial Services
Diane Carroll	Custodial Services
Diane Carroll	Custodial Services
Lidia Carter	Custodial Services
Charles Carter	Custodial Services
Maria Casella	Custodial Services
Davon Chatman	Custodial Services
Keona Chestnut	Custodial Services
Curtis Clark	Custodial Services
Victoria Conaway	Custodial Services
Sheila Copeland	Custodial Services
Deshai Cornish	Envi. Services Cust I
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Taquana Cunningham	Service Worker
Predest Davis	Custodial Services
Theodore Davis	Custodial Services
Tory Delaney	Custodial Services
Jonelle Deloach	Custodial Services
Christopher Diggs	Custodial Services
Tina Diggs	Custodial Services
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Tymira Donelson	Custodial Services
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