The University of North Carolina Staff Assembly

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East Carolina University

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Fayetteville State University

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina State University At Raleigh

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North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

University of North Carolina General Administration/Affiliates

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The goal of the UNC Staff Assembly is to improve communications, understanding, and morale throughout the whole of our respective communities, and to increase efficiency and productivity in campus operations. The Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award was created to recognize an outstanding staff member in the UNC Staff Assembly. This award is given to an individual who has shown unusual understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind and whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals of the UNC Staff Assembly.

The first Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award is being awarded to Adam Reagan of UNC Asheville for his ability to overcome adversity, agility for life and his outstanding commitment to UNC Asheville, the Asheville community, the UNC system, and to mankind as a whole. Per Chris Miller, Chair, UNCA Chancellor's Staff Advisory Council, "Adam is a humbling person. When you are around him his attitude towards life inspires his colleagues. Every time I am around him I find out something amazing he has done." The members of the UNC Staff Assembly's Executive Committee all agree with Chris. Adam is the person that you always want on your team, because you know that no matter whatever the task, Adam will arise above it all and bring everyone together to make things happen.

In the spring of this year, as we were putting the finishing touches on our website upgrade, in which Adam was principle in helping to complete, Debbie Robertson and I received an email from Adam. In this email Adam let us know that he would be taking a step back from his work as the Communications Director of the Staff Assembly. In his explanation he let us know that he had been running in a race, a 5K, I believe and found himself unconscious some time during the race and that after seeing his doctor, had been referred to a Cardiologist. The news from the Cardiologist was grim, per Adam, "Last Thursday afternoon (12 days ago), I finally got a call from my cardiologist regarding the results of my heart CT. As you might recall, this test was meant to look at two things; 1) heart disease and 2) some kind of rare defect that might have caused the issue. Most of the time this defect is discovered postmortem, and in essence, I've won life's lottery by only passing out when I did." Adam was given two options by his Cardiologist, Option 1: Leave things how they are and change my lifestyle drastically. No more vigorous exercise and nothing that will increase my heart rate too much for fear of sudden cardiac death. Option 2: Perform single bypass surgery to fix the misrouted artery. Note,

Adam is a young man under the age of 30 and an avid runner and athlete. Adam and his wife patiently waited for a second opinion, fortunately during this time his Cardiologist attended a conference of Cardiologists and after discussion with his colleagues it was discovered that surgery was not needed at all and that Adam could proceed with his active but not as active lifestyle. Now on to why Adam deserves the honor of receiving the first Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award. Here are a few things that Adam has done or continued to do before during and after receiving this life changing information:

- Spearheaded the have a heart campaign at UNCA which led to 750 pounds of food being donated to Manna Food bank.
- Continued the upgrade of the UNC Staff Assembly Website
- Carried out his duties as the Communications Director of the UNC Staff Assembly
- Signed up and was chosen to be a bone marrow and white cell donor
- Encouraged staff at UNC Asheville to register as a bone marrow donor
- Traveled to Washington, DC to donate marrow and white blood cells to an anonymous cancer patient.
- Managed to continue some of his duties as a staff member at UNCA while undergoing the testing and hospitalization.
- Participated in a video conference for his department at UNCA while in the hospital in DC.
- Volunteer as the Regional coordinator for Relay for Life.
- Volunteer to help with the State Employees Combined Campaign coordination efforts at UNCA.

While these are only a few of the things that Adam has done, his outreach in his community and the lives he has touched are too many to name. Adam has performed all of this work in addition to working on his Masters in Project Management degree, as well as his many duties as an IT analyst at UNCA.

According to the Jewish philosopher Maimonides (1135-1204) “The highest form of charity is that which is anonymous.” Well, Adam is the epitome of a person that performs charity that is anonymous and often goes unnoticed. He is one that works without the expectation of the accolades and the praise that is so well deserved, while having the patience of Job and a most pleasant demeanor to bring calm in the most difficult situation. On behalf of the University of North Carolina Staff Assembly, it is with great honor and joy to present the Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award to Adam Reagan.