Harvey Fields, PhD, has worked at Washington University in St. Louis for nearly two decades, focusing on helping students and ensuring they achieve their full academic potential.

For his dedication to supporting students at Cornerstone, the Center for Advanced Learning, Fields received this year’s Gloria W. White Distinguished Service Award.

Fields is assistant director for academic programs at the center, where his responsibilities include creation and oversight of programs and resources to help undergraduate students achieve and maintain academic success. He also works to build and maintain partnerships with various undergraduate schools and departments.

“He is constantly thinking of ways to develop new and inventive approaches to enrich and support student learning, not just for the current year but for many years to come,” Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said in announcing Fields as this year’s Gloria White award recipient. “His challenges for the group require everyone to work harder and be more creative; however, he doesn’t expect anyone to work harder or more creatively than he is already working.”

The annual honor was named for the late Gloria White, who retired in 1997 as vice chancellor for human resources after 30 years with the university. The award, which comes with a $1,000 prize, provides recognition to a nonacademic staff member for exceptional effort and contributions that have resulted in the betterment of the university.

Before joining the university, Fields worked for Procter & Gamble in various engineering and management positions. He earned bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and in chemical engineering from Morehouse College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. He later earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in chemistry, in Arts & Sciences, from WUSTL.

Fields also serves as pastor of Union Baptist Church in Chesterfield.

As a graduate student, Fields served as an academic tutor in the Department of Chemistry, and he has worked to teach and mentor students ever since.

Christine Street, JD, assistant director for disability resources at the Center for Advanced Learning, nominated Fields for the award. In her nomination letter, she talked about his passion, creativity and work to improve WUSTL and the greater St. Louis community.

“Harvey is always asking how we can do things better and how we can do more,” she wrote. “He is creative and flexible in developing academic support solutions that meet the needs of individuals as they come to us.”

Source: Record, May 24, 2013; article by Kelly Wiese Niemeyer