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Jonathan Campbell, assistant professor and director of jazz studies, earned the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service. An active artist, educator, and community member, Campbell shares his love of jazz with students, colleagues, alumni, and others.

“I am extremely honored to receive this award and was speechless when I found out,” says Campbell. “For me, it is about giving back. Through performance and education, I absolutely love sharing and passing along this great art form with others.”

Recipients of the President’s award demonstrate “an unusual commitment to the University community.” According to Campbell’s nominator, Professor of English and Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies Julie Eckerle, Campbell is distinguished not only by what he does, but also by how he does it.

Among the accomplishments cited by Eckerle in her nomination are Campbell’s efforts to create a Jazz Studies minor, his relationships with area high schools, prospective students, and alumni; his technical upgrades to campus facilities; his ambitious performance portfolio; and his efforts to integrate jazz into the Morris community. His work, she states, not only serves UMN Morris and students from a variety of majors, but also feeds a “hunger” long felt by the rural community—all with indefatigable enthusiasm.

“I stand in amazement of Campbell’s seemingly limitless energy and find myself immensely grateful for the fact that he has devoted this energy to the cultural life of our town, campus, and students,” Eckerle writes. “What he has accomplished since 2015 [when he joined the faculty at UMN Morris] and continues to create is truly ‘outstanding.’”

About Campbell
Campbell holds a DA from the University of Northern Colorado, MM from Central Washington University, and a BA from Central Washington University. His expertise includes jazz ensembles and saxophone.

About the Award
The University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service was established in 1997 to recognize faculty and staff (current or retired) who have provided exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments and service units. Such service must have gone well beyond the regular duties of a faculty or staff member, and demonstrate unusual commitment to the University community.