Sergeant Rodney McCarter
2015 Harrisonburg Kiwanis Lawperson of the Year

The James Madison University Department of Police & Public Safety is proud to announce that Sgt. Rodney McCarter has been selected as the 2015 Harrisonburg Kiwanis Lawperson of the Year. Sgt. McCarter has been employed with the James Madison University Department of Police & Public Safety since February 2005 and has progressed from a position as a campus cadet, through our Apprentice Police Officer program to his current position as a Patrol Sergeant. The award was presented to Sgt. McCarter on April 21, 2015.

Rodney’s ascension through these levels demonstrates his exceptional character and professionalism, and he personally exemplifies the philosophy of the James Madison University Department of Police & Public Safety through his interactions with students, faculty and staff.

Since 2010, Rodney has been a volunteer mentor through the Office of Judicial Affairs and has successfully mentored four students. These students have offered feedback indicating that they benefited greatly from the experience and described Rodney as an individual that they could relate to due to the fact that he offered them insight from his personal experience as a student-athlete. Some of the remarks that were offered by these students about Rodney are:

“He (Rodney) has been a good person to talk to whenever I have any concerns about school or other career path decisions.”

“He (Rodney) influenced me to think critically before my actions and taught me to view situations from different perspectives.”

“Meeting with my mentor (Rodney) was very beneficial. It made me look at my life and make changes that I did not expect to change because of him.”

“All in all, the mentoring program is one of the best things about J.M.U. This is where I have received the most support at the University.”

“If all the professors were as interested in their students as my mentor (Rodney), J.M.U. would be a wonderful place.”

As stated, Rodney is currently assigned as a Patrol Sergeant and assists with managing a patrol squad during periods that the Administrative staff is not present. Rodney has accepted his responsibilities in that role and continues to attend training to expand his knowledge and confidence in the practical application of being a good supervisor.

Rodney has also been selected to be assigned as a part time member of the Combined Harrisonburg and Rockingham Gang Enforcement (C.H.A.R.G.E.) unit for the purpose of developing a more comprehensive approach to ensuring the safety of the James Madison University community and all associated citizens. Though this assignment is in its infancy, Rodney has already made an impact by embracing his assignment and volunteering for extra duties that will strengthen the effectiveness of this collaboration and have a positive impact on the J.M.U. community. Rodney has assisted the unit with public presentations to Harrisonburg City and J.M.U. organizations, which will hopefully enhance the ability to recognize and identify problem areas or individuals. Rodney has volunteered to develop a presentation for high school and middle school students that outlines his personal experiences and describes the decision-making process that he used to overcome the pressure to become involved in that lifestyle. Rodney hopes that because of his personal experiences, the students will be able to more closely identify with the message being presented.

Major J. P. Baker
Patrol Operations Commander