



April 21-May 4, 2017

PPD's Outstanding Manager Award Announced by Rachel Stone

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The break room in the Health Sciences Center (HSC) Custodial Services suite was quiet and tense as the staff awaited an announcement from the Physical Plant Department (PPD) interim director, Shirley Mitchell, last week. Little did they know the announcement to be made was to present the first PPD's Outstanding Manager Award for 2016 to Michael Crocker, manager of HSC Custodial Services. The applause was deafening and the smiles were large as the nearly 30 employees heard the news.

Earlier this year, the PPD Recognition Committee established this award program to recognize a PPD manager that demonstrated the qualities of outstanding leadership, customer service, promoting a positive work environment, and making a significant contribution to the success of their work group. In order to receive this award, nominated managers must have excelled in these areas in order to qualify, among other criteria.

A cheerful personality, consistently communicating with his staff, accommodating them, and "making work easier not harder" were all attributes used to describe Michael on the nomination forms.

Shirley Mitchell, interim PPD director, said "I'm happy to have presented the first PPD Outstanding Manager Award to the person who we felt exemplifies an outstanding manager."



Michael Crocker. Credit: Rachel Stone

May the Fourth
be with you!



It was apparent during the award presentation that the staff in HSC Custodial Services believed their manager was deserving of this award, and they were truly grateful that he was recognized for his dedication to making this work unit thrive. Athena Salazar, administrative assistant in HSC Custodial Services, has been working with Crocker for a little over a year and said his presence has made a big difference in the morale of the employees.

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Award continued...

“When he came to this area, the entire group did a one-eighty. Before Michael, the custodians didn’t want to talk and mostly kept to themselves,” said Salazar.

According to Crocker’s staff, things changed within three days under his supervision, and he showed them, almost immediately, that he was dedicated to listening to them and creating a space where everyone felt comfortable to share

ideas, identify problems and rectify them, while having fun. Regular potlucks began, one-on-one meetings were implemented, and personable “hellos” were given out.



HSC Custodial Services staff with their Outstanding PPD Manager, Michael Crocker. Credit: Mary Clark

Salazar explained, “Michael showed us that he was going to stay with us, to make things better. I started to see the custodians come around. Now, it’s more like a family and more of a team.”

Many different staff members said that Crocker treats everyone equally and represents the “scales of justice” because he is fair, level-headed, and honest. Earl Ransom said that the environment is less tense and that Crocker will never leave his employees hanging. Kind-hearted, positive, and a people-pleaser, Crocker is always out of the office checking on his staff and his customers, getting “down in the gutter” beside his staff.

Crocker received a personalized award to keep, and in the coming weeks, a permanent wall plaque will be placed in the Service Building which will include his name as the recipient of this award for 2016.

“First, I would like to thank all for the honor. To me this speaks more to the members of Custodial and PPD. We have great people in this department, working together giving their best, making UNM a better place for students, staff, and the State of New Mexico. Thank you all,” said Crocker.

Congratulations to you, Michael, and thank you for being outstanding!

A call for nominations for the 2017 PPD Outstanding Manager Award will go out on February 1, 2018!

Interim Manager of Maintenance & Operations announced

Vince Chavez, manager of Area 4, has accepted the position of Interim Manager of Facilities Maintenance and began his new role on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Chavez has been with The University of New Mexico Physical Plant Department (PPD) for almost 20 years, and brings more than 34 years of experience in maintenance and construction to this new role. According to Shirley Mitchell, interim director PPD, Chavez is a proven strong leader and has demonstrated his dedication to delivering excellent service to his customers and the UNM community.



*Vince Chavez, interim manager of Facilities Maintenance.
Credit: Rachel Stone*

Mitchell said in an email announcement sent to PPD employees last week, "Vince has the experience, skills, and vision to continue the mission of the PPD Maintenance & Operations unit. I'm excited to have Vince join the senior management team of the Physical Plant Department."

PPD Scholarship applications accepted until June 30, 2017

Applications are now being accepted for the Barber Memorial Scholarship and the M.F. Fifield Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic years. The Physical Plant Department (PPD) Scholarship Committee will meet in July to consider applicants for the two separate awards (each scholarship provides \$300.00 per semester to the scholarship recipients).

Awards for the second semester will be contingent upon satisfactory scholastic performance during the first semester. These awards will be based on demonstrated academic performance, financial need, and educational program.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) students who are children of full-time or retired PPD employees, including high school graduates who have recently been accepted to UNM, are eligible to apply.

Applicants need not designate which award they want; the committee will select the most deserving student in each case. No one will be awarded both scholarships.

Application forms are available at the PPD Service Building front office or can be found online, by [clicking here](#). You may ask the administrative support staff for assistance, or you may call 277-2421, and they will send you a form. Complete the form, print, and return the completed form with grade transcripts to Mary Ann Montoya in the PPD office no later than June 30, 2017. (Please note: The application form indicates to enter your Social Security Number (SSN). If you are a UNM student, please enter your UNM ID# instead.)

PPD Safety Committee presents Safety Award



Dennis Sedillo, gardener with PPD Grounds & Landscaping at the Health Sciences Center (HSC), was awarded the PPD Safety Award last month after he found a tripping hazard on campus and repaired it. He was nominated by a coworker who filled out the [PPD Safety Award Nomination Form](#), and his supervisor, Dan Turnham, said:

Dennis recognized a tripping hazard and got the tools to fix it (sledgehammer). It had to be done in place as it was a permanent bollard cover that was bent up. It was located in the HSC area, south of the Med II building.

Sedillo will receive eight hours of leave in recognition for his efforts in keeping our campus safe. Thank you, Dennis and congratulations on your award! You are “One Safe Lobo!”

Dennis Sedillo, winner of the most recent PPD Safety Award. Credit: Juan Garcia

[Premio de Seguridad de PPD](#)



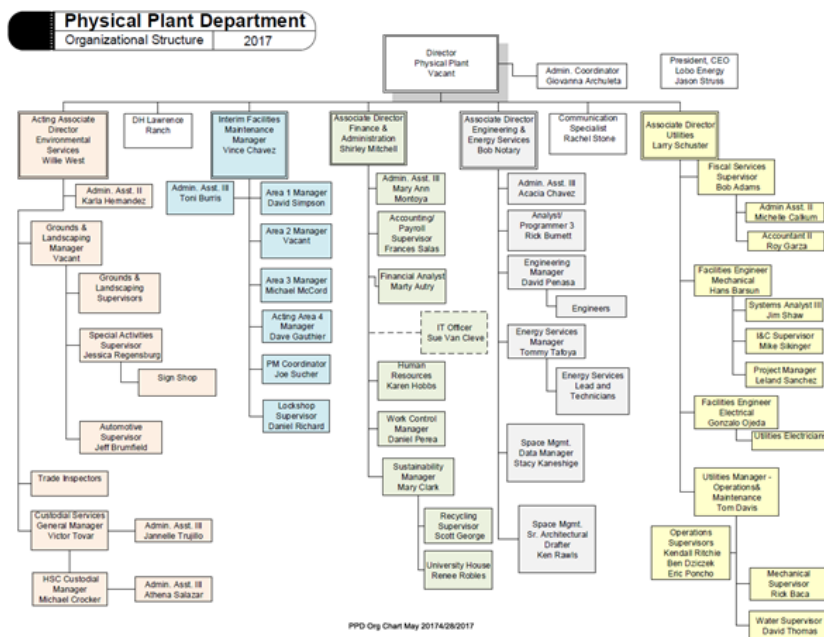
Bollard cover before. Credit: Dennis Sedillo



Bollard cover after Credit: Dennis Sedillo

Updated PPD Organizational Chart

There have been several changes to the PPD organizational chart over the last several months due to retirements and organizational changes. The chart is updated whenever these types of changes occur in the department and positions are filled. You can always see the most up-to-date chart on the PPD webpage under the “About PPD” tab on the [homepage](#).



PPD to host departmental Car & Motorcycle Show on May 19th



The Physical Plant Department (PPD) will host a car, truck, and motorcycle show on Friday, May 19th from 11am – 1pm just west of the Service Building. Come by and take a look at some of the interesting hobbies/projects PPD staff are involved with. If you would like to bring your car, truck, or motorcycle to the show, please contact Daniel Perea, manager of Work Control, at 277-4872. Or, come by and see Daniel in the Service Building, room 118. We hope to see you there!



Last open forum scheduled for Friday, May 5th

The search committee for the Physical Plant Department (PPD) director has announced that five finalists will visit The University of New Mexico (UNM) campus to participate in a series of open forums and meetings with administrators, faculty, staff, and students. All PPD staff are encouraged to attend the forums to ask questions of the candidates and provide feedback to the search committee. Work with your supervisor to arrange which forums would work best for the unit to ensure proper staffing; please note there are two forums available for each candidate.

The director of PPD is responsible for approximately 400 employees, the largest department at UNM, and an annual budget of approximately \$63 million. PPD is responsible for the care and upkeep of the physical campus environment comprising of more than 6 million square feet of facilities and 680 acres of land. PPD also maintains and operates The University's [district energy system](#) which provides electricity, steam, chilled water, and domestic water throughout the majority of UNM's Main Campus.

Open Forum Schedule:

Michael Allen: Friday, May 5, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. & 2:45 – 3:30 p.m., Hokona Hall, Hokona Cellar

To review the finalists' bios, please [click here](#).

New proposed UNM logo unveiled

From University Communications & Marketing website:

After a well-received brand roll-out in early 2016, then president Robert G. Frank convened a [Visual Identity Committee](#), chaired by Anderson School of Management marketing faculty member John Benavidez. The committee brought together students, staff, faculty and alumni from across the entire campus, all of whom had experience and professional responsibilities in the areas of design and marketing. The charge was to examine whether or not the current UNM primary logo introduced nearly thirty years ago represented UNM in a way that was relevant, unifying and in support of UNM's branding efforts; and, if not, to make a recommendation to move forward with a new logo. The proposed new logo comes after a year of careful evaluation by the committee.

To learn more about this proposed logo and to provide feedback to the Visual Identity Committee, [click here](#).



**A Fresh, Bold Look,
Rooted In History**



The photos above demonstrate how the new logo would look on business cards and Lobo gear.



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The Physical Plant Department's mission is to consistently deliver effective programs and efficient facility service based on sustainable and collaborative outcome aligned with The University of New Mexico's core mission.

The Physical Plant Department's vision is that our community, state, and national peers will recognize The University of New Mexico's Physical Plant Department as a leader in campus sustainability and facilities stewardship.