

PPD News

Grotbeck soars to bring success to others

by Rachel Stone

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We all want to be successful. That's one of the reasons thousands of students flood classrooms at the University of New Mexico (UNM) each year. They do this to lay the foundation of experience, knowledge, and expertise in order to improve their odds of living a successful, happy life. According to Chris Grotbeck, facilities engineer with the Physical Plant Department (PPD), personal success is only the first step in living a fulfilling life.

Grotbeck says that once someone has reached a comfortable level of personal accomplishment, their successes should be shared with the social spheres around them, the first sphere being one's family. Outside of that sphere is one's community which includes co-workers and friends. The final sphere would be the general public.

"My philosophical measure of success is based on three things: health, wealth, and wisdom," he explained. "When you help others to be healthy, wealthy, and wise, you've multiplied your successes in life."

Grotbeck has been entrenched in community service for several years, piloting his 1964 Cessna 182 airplane, and donating the fuel, maintenance and time required to voluntarily transport medical patients in need. Angel Flight is one of the public-benefit flying organizations Grotbeck volunteers for which helps transport people who might otherwise not be



Christopher Grotbeck in front of his 1964 Cessna 182. Courtesy of Christopher Grotbeck

According to Angel Flight, the South Central region (AFSC) has flown nearly 35,000 missions, and volunteer pilots have donated over \$35 million through the "generous contributions of their flight costs" over the last 20 years. There are approximately 50 pilots in New Mexico who belong to AFSC and the Angel Flight West (AFW) regions who collectively fly an average of approximately 100 missions per year.

"I've been flying for AFSC and AFW for the last three years, and have flown about 15 non-emergency medical missions. Flying is my passion and my hobby. Why not do something I love while helping others be successful at the same time?" Grotbeck explains.

Flying patients to various destinations across the southwest takes time, money, organization, and generous pilots. Grotbeck describes a typical weekend where he transports patients for treatment in his four-seat aircraft:

This weekend, I will get up early on Saturday morning (0430) and drive to my airplane in Edgewood, then fly to Los Alamos and pick up three passengers - two kids who are patients in need of treatment in California, and their mother. Then, I will fly to Show Low, Arizona, where I'll meet the pilot of the second leg of the flight and transfer the passengers to that pilot's care. From there, they'll fly to Lake Havasu and transfer to a third pilot who will take them to Santa Monica for treatment.

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After the treatment, they will repeat the trip in reverse, sometimes with a completely different set of pilots.

The Cessna 182 flown by Grotbeck can travel six and a half hours (from Edgewood to Palm Springs, St. Louis or Houston, for example) without needing to refuel. The 80 gallon fuel tank costs approximately \$400 to fill up, and the maintenance costs are roughly \$50 for each hour of flight. It is a substantial expense, admits Grotbeck, but he says that he is at a stage in his life where he can afford to dedicate most of his income and time to this worthy cause.

“Some might say that I must be wealthy because I own an airplane. Well, that is one measure of wealth, but I view the airplane as a means to be successful for myself and for others,” said Grotbeck.

Grotbeck recommends that anyone who can share their success with those in need should do so. “Choose to do something that you are passionate about, but also choose something that helps others. This will give you a greater sense of accomplishment.”

Grotbeck also volunteers for [Flights for Life](#), an organization that transports life-saving blood and organs to patients in need, and the [Experimental Aircraft Association](#) where children aged 8-17 can fly with a pilot and earn scholarships if they are interested in the field of aviation. He also volunteers for [American Legion Riders](#), and the [FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association](#).

“We all go through different stages in our lives. Sometimes, we are in the stage of life where we need to help ourselves, and can’t help others. Sometimes we are at a place where we can’t even take care of ourselves. And other times, we find ourselves in a position where we can help others, and that’s the stage I’m at in my life right now. It’s very fulfilling!”

PPD United Way BBQ raises over a thousand dollars

Thanks to the generous donations from PPD staff, the annual PPD United Way BBQ was a success, raising \$1,438.80 for the [UNM Gives](#) campaign which supports the United Way. 208 meal tickets were sold for \$5.00 each, and raffle tickets were sold for an additional \$1.00 each.



The lines were long, but the service was quick as the PPD United Way BBQ kicked off. Credit: Stephen Soisson

This annual PPD tradition wouldn’t be possible without the help of the staff who organized, prepared, and managed the event:

Jessica Regensberg, the Special Activities team, Willie West, the Grounds & Landscaping team, Daniel Perea, Vince Chavez, Phred Pando-Dixon, Tonya Brown, Joshua LaCour, Alexis Lopez, Karen Hobbs, Teresa Natera, Leo Lucero, Shirley Mitchell, Tina Maher, Frances Salas, Deanna O’Dell, Kristina Rucker, Irene Trujillo, Acacia Sanchez, Juan Garcia, Giovanna Archuleta, Athena Salazar, Steve Soisson, Mary Ann Montoya, Michelle Calkum, and Jannelle Trujillo.

Many PPD business partners and Institutional Support Services (ISS) departments generously donated a wide variety of items to be raffled:

Frank’s Supply, Prudential Overall Supply, New Mexico Air Filter, Sunny Fence, Buildology, UNM Bookstores, Demand Safety, Dunn-Edwards Paints, Altor Construction, Westwind Landscape Construction, Pacific Office Automation, Popejoy Hall, UNM Dining & Food Services, Professional Equipment Repair, Mad Dog Mechanical, KONE, Border States, Johnstone Supply, AccuStripe, Inc., Summit Electric Supply, UNM Championship Golf Course, Fleming Chemical, All Fired Up.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year’s event!

PPD All Stars

The Physical Plant Department's (PPD) "All Star" staff recognition award was developed to recognize employees for being exceptional and to show appreciation for the excellent staff at PPD. Winners will receive a \$20 LoboCa\$h card to use at various locations on campus.

Congratulations to Giovanna Archuleta, admin coordinator for the PPD director!! Giovanna was nominated by Shirley Mitchell and she said:

Gio was nominated for the PPD All Star Award because she is such a great asset to the Admin team. Gio not only supports Al Sena, director of the Physical Plant Department, she supports all of the senior management team within PPD. Gio always goes above and beyond her job duties. I know that when I need something done, I can count on Gio to get it done. Gio is professional, dedicated, and such a pleasure to work with. I feel blessed to work with Gio and I wanted to make sure everyone knows how great she is!!



Shirley Mitchell, Giovanna Archuleta, and Al Sena.



Willie West, Nick Royle, and Al Sena. Credit: Rachel Stone



Congratulations to Nick Royle, facilities services tech for Special Activities!! Nick was nominated by Willie West, and he said:

When the Facilities Service Tech position was incorporated into the Special Activities department in 2013, Nick Royle was the type of person we had in mind to fill it. Nick is always actively seeking out new ways to improve our processes and is helpful in keeping the department continually improving. His diverse abilities and problem solving skills are paramount to the departments' success and growth. Nick is not only an asset to the Special Activities Department and PPD, but to The University of New Mexico as a whole.

Tickets are still available for the PPD Employee Appreciation Day

PPD Employee Appreciation Day is Nov. 4, and you're invited to watch the Lobos take on Utah State at Dreamstyle Stadium at 3:30 p.m. Join us for a tailgate before the game, and bring your friends and family!

Tickets in the "Cherry" General Admission section are just \$10.00 if purchased by phone. Tickets can be purchased online at www.unmtickets.com/fb (use promo code promo code PPD17), but will be subject to transaction and booking fees. Buy as many tickets as you'd like!

We'll see you there!



PHYSICAL PLANT DEPT.
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY
SAT., NOV. 4 @ 3:30pm

DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE:
\$10 (org. \$18)

TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE*:
WWW.UNMTICKETS.COM/FB
PROMO CODE: **PPD17**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VIA PHONE:
505-925-1620
MENTION: **PPD**

*Please choose seats in the "Cherry" General Admission seating area to receive the \$10 tickets. There are fees at checkout when ordering online. No fees for phone orders.

UNM Mandatory Training deadline is December 1st

This year, there is a new deadline for completing UNM Mandatory Training. All staff must complete the trainings before Dec. 1.

This year all regular faculty and staff; temporary faculty and staff; on-call staff; and student employees (including Grad Students) are required to complete the designated University-wide mandatory training:

- SRS 0117 Basic Annual Safety Training 2017
- EOD 1017 Intersections: Preventing Discrimination and Harassment
- EOD 481-17 Active Shooter on Campus: Run, Hide, Fight

If you encounter issues accessing or completing any of the training, contact the IT Help Desk at 277-5757 or help.unm.edu.

President Abdallah visits the Ford Utilities Center

On Oct. 5, The University of New Mexico's (UNM) acting president, Chaouki Abdallah, tweeted, "Visited PPD Ford Utilities today to learn about the current turbine engine replacement project. Thanks for all you do to keep @UNM running!"



The turbine that was removed before the \$1.8 million new turbine was installed. Credit: Larry Schuster

each of which consists of a GTG and a heat recovery steam generator. This equipment substantially reduces the cost of producing these utilities and is more efficient than conventional methods because the waste heat created to produce the electricity is recycled to produce steam (cogeneration). Thus, the Utilities Division supplies heat and electricity to the campuses for approximately \$2,500,000 less each year than if all the heat and electricity were provided with outside purchased utilities.

To learn more about how PPD Utilities produces energy, [click here](#).

President Abdallah's visit to the Physical Plant Department (PPD) Ford Utilities Center last month gave the utilities staff an opportunity to highlight the important work done behind-the-scenes at The University. They were in the process of installing a replacement turbine engine on that day. The manufacturer of the gas turbine-driven electric generator (GTG), Solar Turbines, Inc., recommends the engines be overhauled every 30,000 hours of operation, which occurs every 4-5 years. An overhaul, involves removing the cogeneration turbine (jet engine) and reduction gear, and replacing them with remanufactured units provided by the vendor at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million, which includes an allowance for the removed equipment. The removed equipment is then returned to the manufacturer for refurbishment and reuse for other customers.

The PPD Utilities Division provides a major portion of the electricity and steam used by the UNM Albuquerque Main and North campuses with a pair of cogeneration units,



A technician working to complete the installation of the gas turbine (on right). The exit cone on the left will be affixed between the turbine and the gas outlet to the waste heat boiler, completing the installation. Credit: Unknown



Chaouki Abdallah visits with PPD director, Al Sena (l), associate director of PPD Utilities, Larry Schuster (middle), and Tom Davis (r), manager of PPD Utilities & Operations. Credit: Peggy Davis

PPD Promotions

Alan Billau is now the supervisor of arboriculture in Grounds & Landscaping. He was promoted from lead arborist. Congratulations, Alan!

Cody Alvstad is now a master gardener in Grounds & Landscaping. He was promoted from a gardener. Congratulations, Cody!

Daniel Perea recognized at Staff Council ceremony

Daniel Perea, manager of PPD Work Control, received a certificate of recognition for being nominated for the Staff Council Outstanding Supervisor award during last month's ceremony. He was one of 50 supervisors nominated from across campus. An excerpt from the nomination form explains why Perea was nominated for this award:



"[Daniel] is a team player and expects nothing less than that from his office staff. His door is always open and he will always put aside what he is doing to discuss something, whether work related or personal. He is never too busy to try and help if he can. Daniel always tries to help and lend support when he can. As the President of the Parent Association, Daniel is very supportive of any activities that involve getting out in the campus community to lend a hand or make something better. I really love that. He's a "super" supervisor."

There were two winners chosen by the Staff Council Outstanding Supervisor Award Committee: Kristin Gates and Francie Cordova. Staff Council President Danelle Callan opened the ceremony and then guest speaker, Anna Trillo from the Dean of Students office, spoke about how supervisors strive to uplift their staff and give them opportunities to succeed.



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A vibrant promotional poster for "the Underwater BUBBLE Show". The background is a deep blue with a large, glowing purple bubble. Inside the bubble, a woman in a purple coat and hat holds a black umbrella. The text "the Underwater BUBBLE Show" is prominently displayed in white and pink. Below it, "ISS Social AND SPECIAL TICKET OFFER" is written in white on a pink background. At the bottom, there are two boxes: one for "REGULAR PRICES" (\$65, \$41, \$31, \$20) and another for "ISS PRICES" (\$45, \$25, \$20, \$10). A "PROMO CODE: ISS" is also listed. To the right, a paragraph invites families to bring their children to the show and join in the Popejoy Lounge for a social with complimentary desserts, coffee, and more. At the very bottom, ticket information is provided: "Tickets: Online: popejoyrepresents.com/bubble In Person: UNM Bookstore Ticket Office".

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.