FROM THE AVP –
This is the annual award memo, but before I get to the awards I would like to talk to you about something else. I always say that we each represent one another, and together as team, we represent Facilities and Services. Because of that, I do the best I can to make sure that I represent the men and women of FS to the Senior VP of Finance and Administration and to the Chancellor, and I always make sure to convey their goals and plans to you.

Because this is so important to me – and to us as an organization – I try to conduct myself as a professional at all times as I represent you, the hardworking people of FS. I expect that everyone else will do the same. We insist on it.

Recently it seems that civility and respect on campus has taken a downward turn. Some of this, I’m sure, is because everyone is shorthanded and working too many hours in an effort to do a good a job. I know that some of the incivility has taken place with budget disputes over “who pays,” which I find odd and a little amusing, if it wasn’t so destructive. This is, after all, university money that we spend, not our personal funds. And maybe, perhaps, a lack of civility just seems to be the national mood, starting in Washington and carrying over.

In any event, we have had several recent instances of alleged verbal altercations out on campus, and these kinds of events are about as painful for me as it can get – because I have a responsibility to both support the employees of FS by having trust in them, but also by making sure that any allegation is investigated thoroughly and fairly. We do the best that we can, and it is unreasonable to tell us that we need to have more trust; investigating complaints is simply a necessary part of running our business.
I would ask that you take more ownership.

If we know that we all are a little frazzled and that many people out on campus are stressed, the best thing we can do is to not engage when a conversation starts to go sideways. If you find yourself talking loudly, getting in someone’s face, or disagreeing about something vehemently – walk away.

It’s that simple.

Remember what Dario Silva told us –

A very simple but hard thing to practice throughout one’s life because we tend to do the opposite are the four agreements by Miguel Ruiz:

1. May your words be impeccable or more simply...Watch your words.
2. Don’t take anything personally
3. Don’t make any assumptions
4. Always do your best.

We (meaning administrators, department heads, supervisors, faculty, staff) are going to have to step up in Courage to become models of Civility and call out any incivility. If we want roses, we have to plant rose bushes.

Dario Silva, Ph.D., LPCC
Aggie CHAPS
Courage, Hope, Amiable, Purpose, and Service

Let’s all go plant some rose bushes!

UTILITY PLANT DEDICATION
Charles Strickland served as NMSU’s Physical Plant director for 45 years, from 1911 through 1956 (remember: statehood was granted in 1912). In honor of his long service to our organization, the Strickland Award was created in 1997 to recognize individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the organization that is now Facilities and Services.

In 2015, the great historian Ben Woods helped us track down Charles Strickland, Jr., the son of NMSU’s first Physical Plant director. We submitted his father’s name to the NMSU Naming Committee and received approval to name the Central Utility Plant after him. The entire clan came to Las Cruces for the ceremony, and Charles Strickland, Jr. told tales of helping his father with the horse-drawn trash wagon on Saturdays.
STRICKLAND UTILITY PLANT DEDICATION

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 a ceremony was held to name the Central Utility Plant for Charles Strickland, the first director of the NMSU Physical Plant who served for 46 years.

The event was attended by NMSU Chancellor Carruthers, campus personnel, and members of the Strickland family. This is the Facilities and Services annual award newsletter, and I am honored to announce the winners of the Strickland Award.

Nivia Franco

Nivia started with Facilities and Services in 2005 as an Assistant Project Manager and has a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from the University of Ciudad Juarez. Nivia recently provided project oversight for the Zuhl Addition, and she manages the preparation of documents for the triage project assignment process.

There is no one in FS who has worked harder on self-improvement than Nivia. She is a regular at Toastmasters and is always asking how to improve her skills.

Garrey Carruthers

The FS leadership wanted to bestow this award on Chancellor Garrey Carruthers for all he has done to support us both as Dean and as Chancellor.

When we needed an endorsement for the APPA Award for Excellence, he was there. The site visitation team was impressed that “not only does your Chancellor know the names of the FS Leadership, he knows what they do and what their accomplishments are.”

He helped with making the award video: HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=N8bkCMNC3U

When we asked for a keynote speaker for the CAPPA Annual Conference in 2014, he joined us at the podium. At groundbreakings, he makes sure he knows the project manager’s name and thanks them.
Clockwise from immediately above; the Chancellor addressing the FS workforce meeting; mowing weeds at Heritage Farm; granting David Silva’s wish to sit in the “big chair;” naming the Jett gas regulator station for Ralph Lucero, Sr.; and encouraging the staff at the housing cleanup blitz.

Thank you, Chancellor Carruthers!
AVP’S AWARD
The Strickland Award was created in 1997, and I rely heavily on the department staff and/or unit heads to provide input for these awards, but four years ago I added the AVP’s Award. Like the Sometimes Monday Morning Memo, this award is given out annually or whenever the AVP feels like it. This award recognizes an employee or group of employees for a significant achievement or collection of outstanding work representative of the facilities and services values, goals, and mission.

Bud Jones has worked a New Mexico State University for almost 30 years. He has served as the ground manager for Facilities and Services since 2008 when NMSU bought out the Sodexo outsourced contract to save money and improve service.

Currently, Jones oversees a crew of 25 grounds keepers and the Facilities and Services Vehicle Mechanics shop.

“We take care of all the landscapes and irrigation systems throughout our beautiful campus. Most anything that grows we are responsible for its care,” Jones said. “Keeping our students and staff safe is another one of our goals. Removing dangerous trees and their diseased branches helps in keeping us all safe.” He also is responsible for delegating care when concerns with small animals occur. In the summer, the grounds crew keeps the campus manicured, and in the winter the staff works on landscape projects until spring.

“Aside from renovating/improving older landscapes throughout campus, my favorite aspect is getting to know our diverse campus staff.”

1 Adapted from https://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Stories/view/371/staff-spotlight-bud-jones-facilities-and-services
Have a great week everyone, unless of course you made other plans. Plant some roses..!

Glen

Associate Vice President for Facilities
One Team / One Goal

Our mission is to efficiently provide a safe, well maintained, and environmentally sustainable university community...

...and it takes each and every one of you.

And as always — thank you for all that you do!

NMSU is all about discovery!