

Toward Sustainable, Inclusive, & Inspiring
FACILITIES



Facilities & Services

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

OUR BEST ASSET



Ehab Kamarah

Associate Vice Chancellor & Executive Director,
Facilities & Services

F&S has enjoyed another University of Illinois Commencement and I am excited to continue to work intentionally and collaboratively toward consistent improvement and excellence. Our leadership wants to emphasize our organizational alignment and operational efficiency as we approach another summer. The stories in this report offer an intriguing view of some of the services we provide to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

This time of year allows campus units and departments the opportunity to best prepare for next year, and we hope our work and support toward important service and building projects enhance that. In that way, Commencement for F&S isn't a farewell, but the beginning of important work time.

Growing and training our building services—the largest workforce at F&S—also impacts the entirety of the Urbana campus by improving the quality of some of our keystone services. Our efforts there are instrumental to the future of the university in helping attract and retain students, faculty, and staff. I believe we are getting the right skillsets, and support, in place to execute this goal.

Summer outreach work experience and education programs and our award-winning F&S staff are further proof of our strategic vision. We understand that people are our primary asset, and allowing our experts—across the entire workforce—to build our key efficiencies throughout the organization. And we take no greater pleasure than recognizing and honoring all employees, and particularly those who gain the attention of leaders across campus, like our Chancellor's Staff Excellence Award-winning professionals.

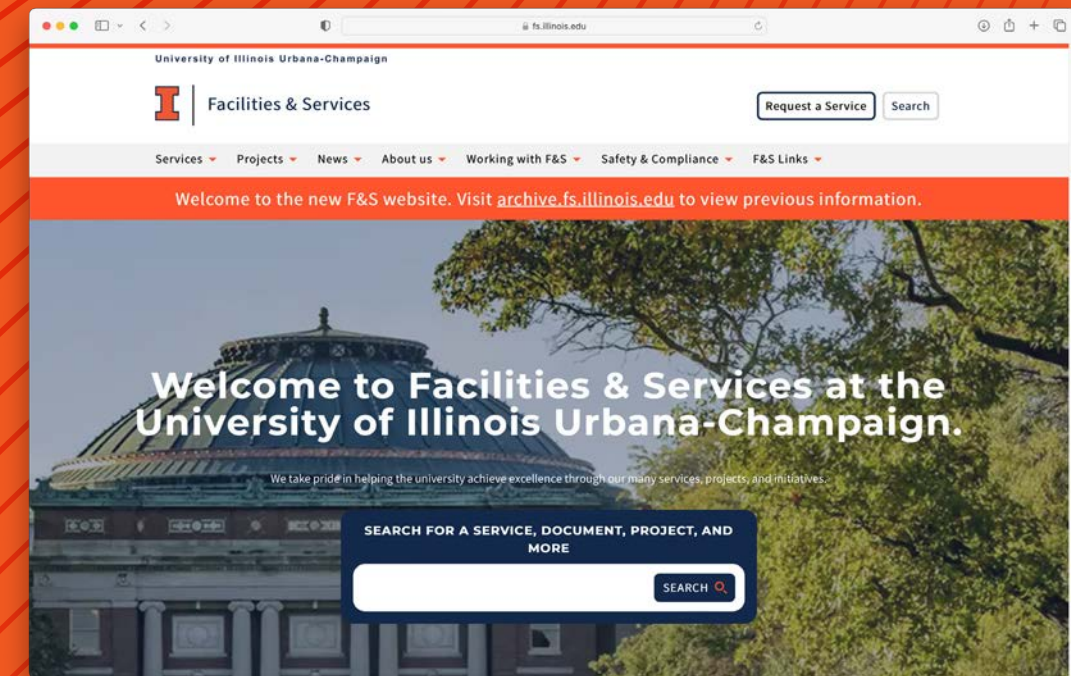
Thank you for reading this edition and I hope you consider us an important partner in your everyday work and strategic mission.

Sincerely,

E. Kamarah

Ehab Kamarah

NEW, UPGRADED WEBSITE



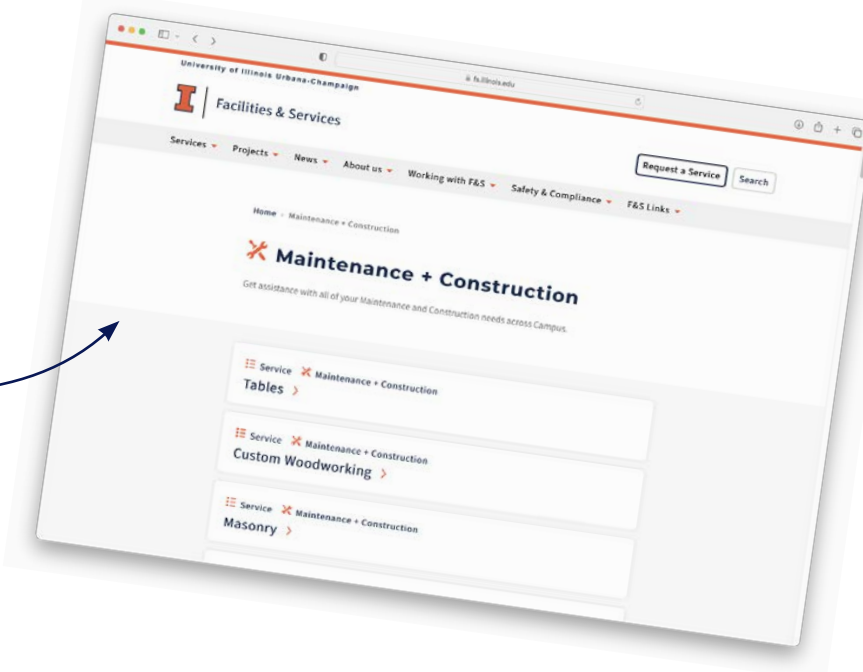
The public-facing website for F&S, fs.illinois.edu, was launched in March. The reimagined layout and features strive to immediately connect customers, visitors, and staff with the services, support, news, and contact information they seek.

Site enhancements include the following:

- Intuitive and easy-to-use search functionality
- Comprehensive, responsive design for mobile devices
- Customer-focused service pages
- Dedicated provider pages for shops and departments
- Spotlight project features
- Interconnected quick links and files

Input from audience and interview sessions was utilized to help shape the organization's enhanced online presence. As Customer Relations & Communications and F&S Information Technology Services (ITS) continue to transition additional content from the previous site, all legacy information, files, and links will be

retained at <https://archive.fs.illinois.edu> until the entire process is complete.



GROWING BUILDING SERVICES: WINDOW WASHERS



F&S is establishing a window washing team that strategically cleans windows at approximately 270 campus buildings.

“We are excited to grow the team and add a significant new service that will beautify campus buildings,” said Pete Varney, director of Transportation & Building Services. Varney said it had been over 10 years since this type of work has been done regularly on campus. “It shows a lot to current students, potential students, parents, donors and community members that if they see clean, shiny glass and doors, that shows professionalism and care for our facilities. By extension, it shows a care for them.”

Foreperson Joe Perkins said he’s already hearing positive feedback from campus building and facility managers.

Crews will clean outside windows during warmer months, and move to inside panes when colder weather comes. The most comprehensive safety measures are taken, particularly for those above ground windows accessed by cranes. Varney estimates it will take three years to fully get through every building on campus.

“We’re excited for this internally,” Varney said. “We want to see campus looking good, and this goes a long way.”



FIGHTING ILLINI FIGHTING WASTE

F&S leads much of the project work led to help the university become more sustainable. The transportation and drivers staff play an essential role in pick-up of all garbage on campus; just as important as operational excellence at Abbott Power Plant and the implementation of green power producers, such as Solar Farms 1.0 and 2.0.

In a newly-directed program, Daphne Hulse, F&S zero waste coordinator, aimed at saving recyclables from the landfill at Illinois athletics events. Events like basketball games or a football game day produce huge amounts of recyclables and are in the public eye. “Fighting Illini, Fighting Waste” has already made an impact, and appears to have a bright future saving more from the landfill.

Student volunteers—with a lot of help from Orange and Blue fans—collected a new State Farm Center (SFC) gameday record of 1,280 pounds of recyclables on March 2 at the Illini men’s basketball game. That is the equivalent of diverting 28 percent of the total waste from the landfill.

Arena:

- 220 pounds (lb.) Aluminum
- 300 lb. Plastic

Recycling Bins on the Concourse:

- 120 lb. Aluminum
- 200 lb. Plastic

Pulled from the Waste Stream (compactor in the facility):

- 440 lb. of mixed materials (paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic)

The Fighting Illini, Fighting Waste initiative is a partnership between Coca-Cola; the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics; the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment; and F&S. The data collected and information gathered from these efforts will be utilized to add permanent recycling infrastructure at university facilities in the future and establish best practices for recycling and sustainable practices at large campus events.

COMING THIS FALL:

Zero Waste Coordinator Daphne Hulse says a “tailgate recycling program is slated roll out in the fall semester at the start of the football season.”

“Facilities & Services is fully on board with providing critical infrastructure for the event (blue recycling bags, dumpsters to collect the recycling), and we are working strategically with the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics to integrate this program into their existing operations for tailgating – we want to ensure that it’s feasible for everyone involved,” she said.

“The intention with the first few tailgate recycling events is to pilot our vision and test how it plays out. The scale of tailgating is large at this university, and we want to first target the highest-trafficked territories of tailgating to maximize our recycling collection. A crucial component of this event will be the feedback we receive from football fans on how we can improve our program.”



COMMENCEMENT BY F&S

During Commencement Weekend, everything—from grounds to facilities, restrooms to stairways—needs to shine.

F&S helps the weekend in many ways, but perhaps the most spotlighted is the work done to help execute convocations as events. This includes substantial cleaning indoors and grounds work outdoors, setting out chairs and operating microphones and lights, and keeping the stages safe and accessible.

Paul Jensen, public functions supervisor, and his staff help execute the weekend. Public Functions helps set up and put on events across campus all year. They supply necessities like American and State of Illinois flags, podiums, barricades, plywood, tables, chairs, banners, and other signage.

Multiple crews came together to help the historic Virginia Theater add these permanent stairs in a way that would “meet compliance needs, but also look like it was part of the theatre,” said F&S Carpenters foreperson Bob Weeks (shown below). Four departments held their convocations over the weekend.

Carpenters Mitch Harris, Ian Martin, and Eric Hasselbring planned and built custom stairs leading to the stage for the weekend, but they relied on many other shops to make it happen. Scott Schmidt from the mill shop fabricated the handrail pieces; painters Galen Lacher, Doug Barger, Matt Verplaetse, Gayle Vincent, and foreperson Kevin Westray all painted it; and laborers Justin Chaney and Josh Rushing, driver Joe Lewis, got them in place.

“It was exciting for F&S personnel to work on that particular project. The Virginia has long been a big part of community,” said Weeks. “It’s exciting to be involved in a historical place, and tasked with the challenge of providing them with the steps.”

Ryan Welch, superintendent of Grounds, oversees the landscape management of 939 acres of outdoor space on campus, notably including trees and shrubs, flowers, and lawn areas like the Main Quad.

“Commencement is one of the campus’ biggest days of the year, and the grounds department looks forward to preparing for the event,” said Welch. “We strive to make the university’s outdoor features look as beautiful as possible by planting flowers, mulching beds, and by keeping the lawns well-manicured.”

Like they do every other day, building service workers (BSWs) clean the floors, walls, doors, doorknobs, bathrooms, windows, and stairs, and take care of facility entrances and interior spaces.

At various ceremonies, the electricians make sure all audio/visual infrastructure is in place and operational for the weekend. Much of the work takes place at Huff Hall, where staff hangs a projector from the ceiling and arranges a public address system to allow the audience to hear the proceedings.

At F&S, Commencement Weekend always means a team effort.



ILLINI HALL/ALTGELD HALL

The Illini Hall Replacement and Altgeld Hall Renovation projects maintain progression. Phase 1 was the complete demolition of Illini Hall, done in March, and site preparation for construction will continue there until May.

Recent accomplishments of Phase 2, Altgeld Hall exterior renovations and improvements, include:

- Tuckpointing/Cleaning/ Restoration 1896 NW corner to SW Bell
- Labeling and removal of chime system
- Steel Fabrication for Attic Steel
- Demo/Chimes Floor Protection
- Steel Installation Attic Steel
- Roof Demo NW corner around Bell tower
- Scaffold/Roof Demo 1896 NW corner to SW Bell
- Removal Shingle Stone Turrets
- Tuckpointing, Cleaning, Restoration of 1918 and 1925 Editions
- Install Vertical Center Cored Enforcement
- Roof Install 1896 NE Corner to SW Tower

3 CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Urbana campus undergoes capital project construction work each summer, and this year is no different. Approximately 20 projects will be substantially completed before students come back for fall 2023. Upgrades to facilities are necessary to address the university's strategic goals and feature classroom and laboratory modernizations, accessibility improvements, life-safety upgrades, infrastructure renewal, and enhancements to building mechanical systems in support of energy conservation efforts. F&S Capital Programs project managers shepherd each project through deadlines and tasks until opening.

JAPAN HOUSE ADDITION – OGURA-SATO ANNEX

The Japan House Addition — Ogura-Sato Annex is currently in the planning phase and is scheduled to move into the bidding process next. Construction is expected in the fall of 2023.

STEVEN S. WYMER HALL

With an anticipated opening date of 2025, this state-of-the-art building will help prepare Illinois students for futures of purpose and impact. An official groundbreaking took place in April. A partnership between Gies College of Business and other campus units, this hybrid educational facility will be home to much-needed collaboration spaces, traditional and flexible classrooms, informal learning environments, content creation studios, as well as academic offices and support spaces.

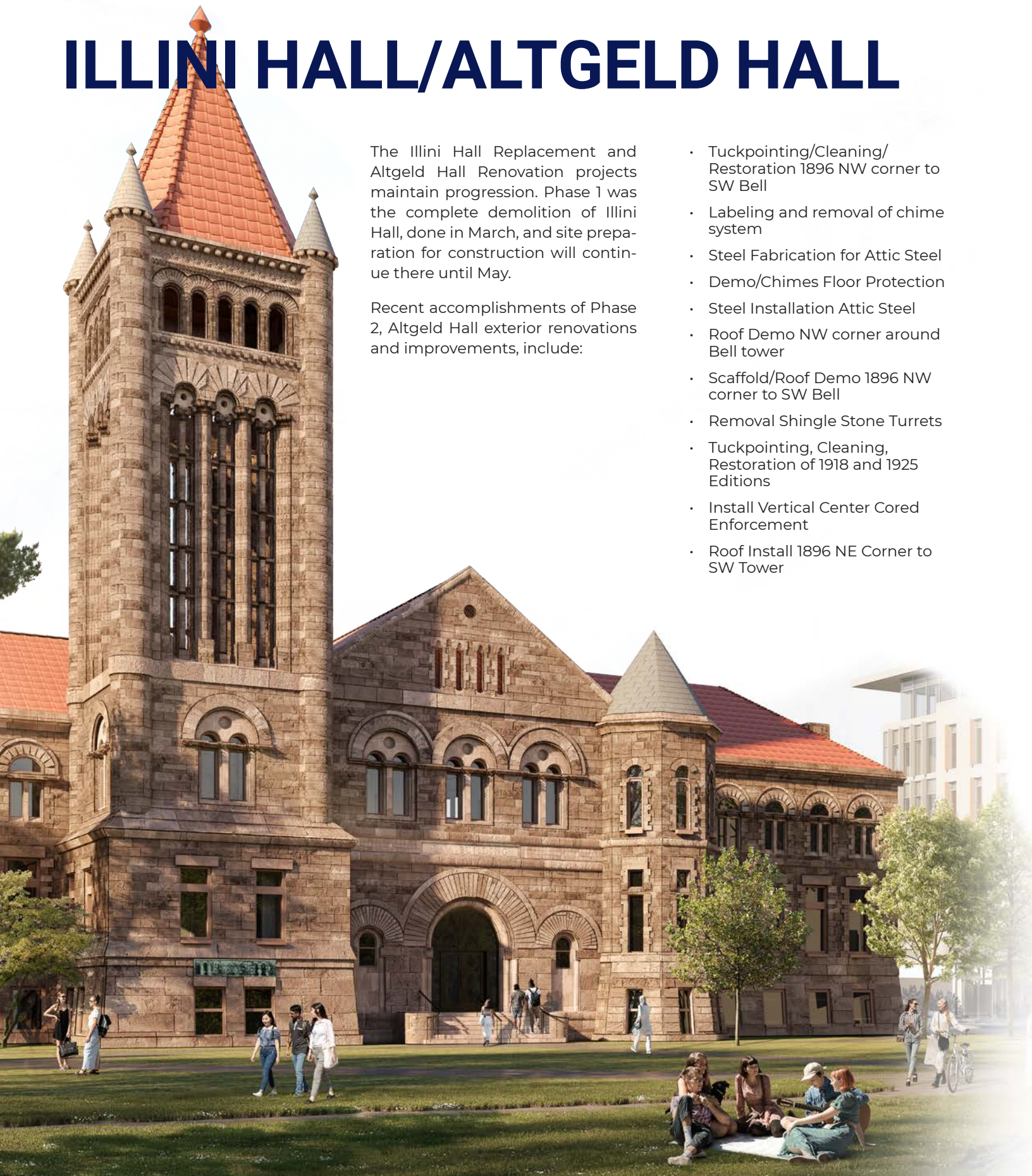
Among its features, Wymer Hall will:

- Provide expanded studio space and recording capabilities to serve online courses and programs throughout campus.
- Facilitate experiential learning and group work, as well as offer collaborative spaces for campus students.
- Support enrollment growth with additional and much-needed larger classroom spaces for the south campus.
- Provide needed office space for faculty and support staff in Gies College of Business that have increased to serve growing online programs.

—Gies College of Business

KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The curtains have opened on the Colwell Playhouse Stage replacement project, with demolition coming in the summer; the project is scheduled to be completed in the fall. The existing wood-framed stage floors were installed as part of the 1969 original construction. Because of periodic water infiltration and typical wear, the stage floors are now in need of replacement. F&S Construction Services will coordinate this project.



SUMMER OUTREACH WORK EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS



“We want to offer the chance for the next generation, particularly minorities and women, to work for us, see what we are about, and how they can work in rewarding fields like those offered at F&S.”

F&S regularly employs student workers, pre-apprentices, and interns as part of a collection of employment and recruitment efforts. The Diversity Internship Program (DIP) offers the opportunity for current U of I students, or other college-attending students on summer break, the chance to work in a variety of fields and work types.

“Having young people learn about F&S and the variety of work we do is good for the university and the local labor market,” said Eric Smith, director of Human Resources, Diversity, & Strategy. “We want to offer the chance for the next generation, particularly minorities and women, to work for us, see what we are about, and how they can work in rewarding fields like those offered at F&S.”

F&S activated its education and outreach efforts in part by hosting students in the Parkland College Highway Construction Careers Training Program, a pre-apprenticeship designed to increase the participation of underrepresented groups. Students toured the Physical Plant Service Building, home to the F&S Crafts & Trades; and Abbott Power Plant, where most energy is produced and distributed on the Urbana campus.

“F&S has a relationship with Parkland and other local community colleges and high schools because working in the crafts and trades is rewarding, is a marketable skill readily available for hire everywhere in the world, and allows you to learn and grow over time,” said Dave Boehm, director of Building Maintenance & Grounds. “We are talking to future F&S employees and we value growing those relationships.”



Two F&S employees are being recognized for their excellent work. Todd Hawkins, ironworkers shop foreperson, and Ebony Murray, building service worker, were chosen to receive the Chancellor’s Staff Excellence Awards (CSEA). There are 16 total recipients across campus this year.

“It is a signal of high esteem in which your colleagues hold you,” wrote Chancellor Robert Jones.

The presentation of the award was made in April and each winner received a commemorative award, and \$1,500.

Greg Moen, supervisor of building maintenance, nominated Hawkins and spotlighted Hawkins’ technical abilities, but also characteristics of his leadership.

“One of the staples of their shop is moving heavy and bulky/delicate research equipment—including optical tables and MRI machines that can weigh thousands of pounds—in and out of labs with just inches of clearance. Once again, with Todd’s leadership this work was performed safely without damaging the equipment or infrastructure, and most importantly, kept the crew safe.

Todd possesses the technical knowledge, patience, active listening, communication and collaboration skills to be a successful supervisor. I feel fortunate to call Todd Hawkins a co-worker. Facilities & Services and the University of Illinois as a whole are fortunate to have a su-

pervisor like Todd with impeccable character, integrity, dedication, and thoughtfulness.

A few colleagues nominated Murray, who works in building services at Garage and Car Pool (GACP) and has been recognized specifically for her work cleaning UI Ride intercampus shuttle buses.

Murray: “puts forth an effort to improve herself, as well as help improve other employees by leading by example. It is easy to respect someone who takes pride in their job, and you know it because you see it. Ebony takes pride in her work and if you just had a chance to see her in action you would know it.” – Tracy Osby, assistant superintendent of Building Services.

In her nomination, Macie Sinn, GACP office manager, said Murray, “takes the initiative to go above and beyond what is expected of her. She performs the additional tasks without being asked, and is always smiling when we see her around the building.”



TODD HAWKINS



EBONY MURRAY



Facilities & Services

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

