

Custodial Services Wins National Cleaning Industry Awards



(From left) Emmanuel Nshimirimana, Dave Stevens, Elizabeth Saavedra, Andy Yanez, and Luis Alvarado

Custodial Services keeps The University of Texas at Austin’s facilities sanitary and clean, but they do much more than that on behalf of the university. This team of experts demonstrate the highest level of excellence and stewardship—national award winning levels. In fact, Custodial Services leaders walked away with not one, but three, major awards at a recent cleaning industry symposium.

The Simon Institute establishes and measures the professional standards of quality and effectiveness of cleaning programs across the nation. At their Symposium 2019, held on October 8 in Park City, Utah, Custodial Services, on behalf of the university, was recognized for:

Best Cleaning Program: This award recognizes the best managed and most knowledgeable cleaning operation following best practices, and their leadership and contributions to the advancement of professional cleaning.

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Best Workloading: The goal is a fair and equal workload; this not only includes the designation of cleanable square footage, but a complex combination of factors including frequency, speed, materials, labor, safety and productivity. This award recognizes the organization who has simplified the workloading process and identified the most efficient and effective way to move cleaning workers through a building.

Best OS1 Audit: This audit generates valuable data to benchmark best practices with other (OS1) operations; the audit is an extensive evaluation of custodial tools and the process. The award goes to an organization who has the highest overall (OS1) Audit score for the year.

In addition, two of Custodial Services' cleaning teams were recognized for achieving excellent scores after undergoing an OS1 annual Progress Audit and for attaining the high standards required for a "Green Certified Program." According to the Simon Institute, (OS1) Green Certified Programs are presented to facilities who successfully and safely manage their cleaning program while also "effectively reducing environmental risk and the probability of unwanted effects," such as chemical, particle and moisture residue and by disposing cleaning waste in "an environmentally responsible manner."

The **(OS1) Green Certified Program of Merit** award went to Custodial Services' Crew 331, the team responsible for the E. William Doty Fine Arts Building, and the **(OS1) Green Certified Program of Excellence** went to Crew 771, the team responsible for the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Building.

Expressing appreciation and pride in their jobs well done, Sally Moore, the associate director of Custodial Services, announced the awards in an all-hands meeting on October 28, recognizing all who were involved. Moore thanked cleaning workers, trainers and supervisors for all the work, coordination, organization and dedication to the (OS1) cleaning and management program that allows UT Austin's Custodial Services to be a benchmark of excellence in cleaning programs at a national level.