

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)



Rufo Zepida vacuums at L. Theo Bellmont Hall Tuesday evening. Custodians at UT were recognized at a symposium in August for their cleaning and training programs.

As clean as a whistle: UT staff sweeps up awards

Annual symposium commends training, cleaning programs

By: Maya Srikrishnan

Posted: 8/27/08

UT Custodial Services received the 2008 Cleaning Program of the Year and the Training Program of the Year awards as well as others at an August symposium.

The seventh annual OS1 Users Symposium is a nationally recognized system that sets standards for a specific type of custodial operation that uses team effort during cleaning jobs. Four custodians encompass a team and use their cleaning specializations, which include emptying trash, cleaning restrooms and classrooms, dusting and vacuuming.

Custodial services prepared 10 UT buildings for audits conducted by OS1 officials, who gave the buildings a "green" seal of approval.

"That's really our goal: [to use] a method of cleaning that is going to provide the healthiest environment for our workers, the students and anyone in our work area," said Sally Moore, associate director of UT Facilities Services.

Custodial training at UT is a three-week process that uses a mix of classroom learning and hands-on experience, Moore said. In their final week of training, new employees shadow older, tenured employees.

Team supervisor Charles King said the training builds strong teams and leadership within the staff. Trainees learn all four specializations until it is time to shadow a more experienced UT employee, he

said.

"The teams train together," King said. "Each one of them is watching out for each other."

Many trainees have shadowed King before, and are amazed by how efficient the cleaning system is, he said.

Ashraf Ahmed is a new employee that works in the North Office Building A and the psychology building.

"Before I came here, I worked three years as a custodian in a high school, but we didn't get any training about how we can get a team together and do work together," Ahmed said. "I was so happy about the training. I take my work very, very seriously, and I like to know more about [how to do] my job."

King said the training program also plays a big role in keeping the campus buildings as "green" as possible, since the OS1 chemicals are all environmentally friendly.

"Our training has helped improve the quality of cleaning of our campus," he said. "We're trying to get our buildings to be green - clean and green."

Moore said UT was lucky to have new training facilities this year to better serve the custodial staff. The old training room was torn down with the Experimental Science Building in the spring, and now the custodial staff utilizes rooms in the newly constructed administration building on Guadalupe Street.

"It is a really nice facility with multiple training rooms with multiple floors and surfaces so we can train to clean the different surfaces, and we can practice [cleaning] restrooms there," she said.

© Copyright 2008 The Daily Texan