

Name: Jesus Ortiz
Working Title:
Payroll Title: FAC SUPV 2

Nomination for the Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year Award Program

Nominee: Jesus Ortiz, Facilities Management, Building Operations Plumbing Shop Supervisor

Jesus Ortiz was hired on May 3rd, 2015 to the Facilities Management (FM) Building Operations team. Jesus quickly set himself apart for his attention to detail and exceptional customer service. After only two years as a Plumber with UCSD, Jesus was promoted to Plumbing Shop supervisor. Jesus has consistently met and exceeded expectations in all aspects of his positions.

Jesus has been a model employee since day one. He is not only an adept plumber, but also an extremely kind person. His acumen for plumbing and personable demeanor make him a great leader and resource for FM Building Operations and ultimately the university. It is Jesus' strengths that have built the Plumbing Shop into an efficient and hard-working team.

Jesus has coordinated significant contributions to FM's and UCSD's response to COVID-19. The contagious nature of the disease, as well as the uncertainty of transmission, posed a great obstacle for the campus to re-open. Jesus and his plumbing team began working with the University's Knight Lab on an innovative project to procure and selectively place wastewater samplers within the University's sewer systems that allows the campus early detection and ability to trace the COVID19 virus through its waste streams. Jesus was integral to the success of this program, ensuring the samplers were placed in strategic locations that would allow the best detection of COVID possible. He and his team also installed the samplers and helped with programming of the units. This program has become a national model of success with UCSD as a lead example for how to successfully test for SARS-CoV-2 within building waste water streams.

Jesus has led several other successful efforts to ensure the campus was able to return to learn & research, including leading a campus-wide project to replace all manually operated commode flush valves and sink faucets to more sanitary touch-free options. Jesus handled the procurement of all the materials in a budget conscious manner and orchestrated a plan to install all units in a timely fashion. The installation of touchless utilities has not only made the campus environment more advanced, but also safer and healthier for everyone.

UCSD has experienced major growth in the form of new academic, medical, and transit buildings, among other new construction, over the last several years. Jesus has been instrumental to the success of critical utility shut downs and tie-ins that have helped merge new additions into an existing and complicated plumbing/utility network while also ensuring the campus remained fully operable at all times. Jesus has made himself available for long hours to supervise and ensure all shutdowns/tie-ins happened without a hitch.

Although Jesus has only been with the University for a relatively short time, his commitment to the FM Plumbing Shop and the University is clear. Jesus leads by example and works alongside his employees, encouraging them to continue to learn and grow within their trades. Jesus fervently advocates for more opportunities for his team and manages the education of a plumbing apprentice as part of FM's Apprenticeship program.

Jesus Ortiz is a shining example of what it means to be a well-rounded leader, employee and person. His time with UCSD has undoubtedly brought countless successes that serve to progress the FM Building Operations department and University as a whole. For this and many other reasons, I highly recommend Jesus for this award.