

Facilities Management Newsletter

Oklahoma State
University

SPRING/SUMMARY 2021 EDITION

Arbor Day Celebration

The 2021 celebration was a little different this year as it was also featured live on OKState.TV.

Our new FM University Arborist, Caitlin Gipson, moderated the celebration:

- Introduction of Guests and words from former OSU President Burns Hargis and First Cowgirl Ann Hargis.
- **Part 1** – Recognition of the newly installed “Cowboy Family Tree Art Piece and Garden” – Vicky Berry (funded by OSU Foundation Campus Beautification Donor Funds)
- **Part 2** – Acknowledgement of the new “Tree Tribute Program” – Program where donors can give any gift amount to the newly established “Campus Tree Planting and Maintenance fund” to help with the Campus Urban Forest OVERALL care. Gifts \$1,800 and more will be recognized in the “Cowboy Family Tree Garden”.
- Caitlin recognized two donors as the first contributors.
 - John Houck – Tree Tribute “In Memory of Linda Jamison”
 - Carl and LaJean Whitcomb of Lacebark Farms – In kind gift of 25 large specimen Heptacodium trees
- **Part 3** - Arbor Day Tree Planting – Coordinated by student Sydney Earley, President of the OSU Society of American Foresters/Forestry Club



Cowboy Family Tree Art Piece and Garden

Garden and Art Piece meaning – Symbolizes the importance of the Campus Urban Forest and the Cowboy Family coming together to create a living legacy of tree planning and maintenance that impacts generations to come.

Location – East of Theta Pond

Artist – Dale Rogers

Art Piece Size – 7’ 9” Tall x 4’ 6” Wide x 2’ 6” Deep

Style – Abstract retro trees with “OSU” tree canopy

Material – Cor-Ten and stainless Steel



Left: Caitlin Gipson, moderator of the Arbor Day ceremony.

Second row left: Donor recognition item in memory of Linda Jamison.

Second row right: Caitlin Gipson presenting a Theta Pond bald cypress tree to John Houck, the first Tree Tribute donor.

Bottom left: Sydney Earley, student and President of the OSU Society of American Foresters/Forestry Club who moderated the tree planting ceremony.

Bottom right: Former OSU President Burns Hargis and Ann Hargis tree planting.



New Street Signs Enhance OSU's Brand and Campus Beauty

Have you noticed the new street sign blades created by the **FM Sign Shop** across campus? FM has received several great comments regarding the new signs. See link from OSU Communications:

https://news.okstate.edu/articles/communications/2021/osu_unveils_new_street_signs.html

Stated by **Ron Tarbutton**, FM Chief Facilities Office, "The Facilities Management (FM) Sign Shop created the street sign proofs of several examples for review and approval by the Campus Architect and Brand Management to review and approve. After approval of the design for the street signs, the Sign Shop created all the small street name signs for the campus and have already installed most of them. FM contracted with Traffic & Lighting Systems, LLC out of Oklahoma City to fabricate and install the large street signs around campus on the City of Stillwater traffic light pole cross arms. The new street signs have the new OSU brand logo to help unify the look and pride for the OSU campus." (Pictures courtesy of OSU Brand Management)



Just wanted to send a quick note to let you know how much we appreciate everything your team does to enhance OSU's brand and campus beauty. We shared a post today on social highlighting these efforts:

<https://www.facebook.com/OkstatePD/photos/a.267823536575340/4252723581418629>

<https://twitter.com/OkstateSafety/status/1383127367762186246>

Many thanks!

MEGAN HORTON

Director of Branding and Digital Strategy
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FM Assists OSU Campus Return to Normal

As the COVID-19 pandemic begins to show signs of ending, FM began the arduous post-pandemic task of removing the thousands of employee safety precaution stickers & signage placed all across campus in 2020. Thanks to FSS Moves/Special Events and FSS Signs for their work on these efforts! Thank you to James Moody, Colton Hamelin, Rick Crawford and Eric Nelson.

For additional help, FM enlisted the help of two temporary workers to assist with the monumental effort. Pictured are Kotah Broyles (left) and Elijah Hamilton (right) removing social distancing stickers from classroom desks.



New University Mailing Services (UMS) location

UMS is open in its new location at 601 N. Willis St., just north of Hall of Fame. The move makes way for OSU's New Frontiers Agricultural Hall. A portion of warehouse #5 was renovated to meet the needs of UMS.

As stated by **Renee Smith**, Director Business Operations, the new location has many benefits. "The new location will be easier to find for the off-campus population and the Stillwater community. There will be more parking and it will reduce congestion in the heart of campus at the old location."

UMS is a Certified Postal Unit that provides the same services as the U.S. Post Office and can pick up and deliver mail in the 74077 and 74078 zip codes. UMS also has access UPS, FedEx and DHL carriers to provide best price shipping and shipping supplies. To learn more about the services provided by UMS click on this link <https://fm.okstate.edu/ums/index.html>

Pictures of the area while under renovation and during move-in.



Recognizing Employee Achievements



Professional Procurement Certificates – OK Corral Marshal

Congratulations to **Renee Smith, Geena Brownell, and Darren Stormont** who completed Professional Procurement Certificates.

Picture left are Renee Smith, Scott Schlotthauer, Director of Central Purchasing, and Geena Brownell.



Caitlin Gipson obtains ISA Arborist Certification

Steve Dobbs stated, "We're happy to announce that the OSU FMLS team has an ISA Certified Arborist on staff. Caitlin Gipson, Landscape Services University Arborist, joined Facilities Management in June 2020 and worked hard to gain the knowledge and experience needed to pass the rigorous ISA Certified Arborist Exam April 2021."

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) sets the arboriculture industry standards for best tree care practices, workplace safety, and business ethics. ISA uses sound, researched-based methodology to assist professionals and consumers alike in promoting tree care public awareness and education.

Congratulations to **Tara Alexander**, Operations & Maintenance, one of the new members elected to the OSU Staff Advisory Council.



Facilities Management Leadership Program

Congratulations to the following employees who completed the program



Left, **Tammy Johnson**, Energy Services, pictured with **Craig Spencer**.



Right, **Katie Beitz**, Landscape Services.



Paul Christian,
Construction
and Contract
Services



Gabe Dreiling (above right) is presented his certificate from **Ron Tarbutton** (above left).



Renee Smith presents certificates to **Deanna Siegfried**, (left) and **Darren Stormont** (right).



Sustainability

OSU's First Sustainability Coordinator Begins New Adventure

On Tuesday, May 4, OSU's first Sustainability Coordinator **Ilda Hershey** was honored with a Come & Go Reception at the OSU Central Plant as she retires and begins a new adventure in the state of Washington. For the past several weeks, Ilda has been working for a smooth transition of the OSU Sustainability Program that she began in 2012. Because of Ilda's efforts, OSU is the only university in Oklahoma included in [The Princeton Review's 2021 Green Colleges List](#). In a recent interview, Ilda said, "I feel like I'll be able to relax a little better knowing that Kristeena will be taking over as sustainability coordinator."



OSU Sustainability introduces new Sustainability Coordinator

On April 1, OSU formally announced its new Oklahoma State sustainability coordinator **Kristeena Blaser**. Earning her master's degree in environmental studies at Ohio University in 2017, Kristeena has gained experience in both university and non-profit settings. She is looking forward to continuing the efforts of sustainability on campus and looking for new opportunities for the future.

Under the leadership of FM Energy Services, OSU Sustainability works closely with student programs, including Welcome Week, Camp Cowboy, RHA Eco-Representatives, the EcoHouse Living Learning Program, paid student intern opportunities, FGSH afterschool programming, H&RL staff training, and more. If you would like to get involved, learn more [HERE](#).



Actions Taken by Energy Services Resulted in Huge Benefit to OSU

February brought the region record breaking cold that resulted in numerous forced electrical outages, utility disruptions, and natural gas curtailments. Natural gas prices soared during the week of the cold snap that caused consumer's bills to be many times higher than a typical February. Energy Services' Central Plant is the single largest consumer of natural gas on campus and was in full production during the cold snap in order to keep buildings warm and pipes from freezing. Central Plant operators switched fuel sources to diesel fuel in order to reduce the amount of gas used during the month in an effort to lower our natural gas bill. A typical February would have experienced approximately \$3.00/MMBTU gas but the cold snap caused the market to skyrocket to \$1,193/MMBTU. Because of the fixed price contract that was established in 2020 and switching the plant to diesel fuel, Energy Services was able to reduce expenses from an estimated \$14.1 million dollar February to a relatively normal \$300k February bill – a cost avoidance of approximately \$13.8 million dollars. Great job to the Central Plant Operators and Energy Management!

*Craig Spencer, P.E.
Asst Chief Facilities Officer &
Director of Energy Services*

2021 FM Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Kenneth Allen

In February, the Facilities Management Advisory Council (FMAC) selected **Kenneth Allen** as Employee of the Year.

Kenneth works in Operations and Maintenance, Zone 3.

Kenneth is a hard worker, willing to always help his co-workers and is noted for always having a smile for everyone.

FMAC Chair, Angie Duckworth would like to recognize all the excellent nominees FMAC had to choose from this year. John Lee, Kyle Brandon, PJ Kyle, Errick Anderson, Tony Acker, Don Machart, Tah Moorman, Steven Townley, Tony Kowalewski, Lori Vogt, Brenda Hall, Terry Peterson, and Marla Boles.

It is the mission of Facilities Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) to further communication among staff members via elected representatives from each department and make recommendations to the Director of FM on matters of concern. Additionally, the team of up to 15 delegates seeks to foster cooperation, leading by an example of positive attitude.



2021 Timson Facilities Management Award

Congratulations to **Brian Sanders**, Operations & Maintenance Zone 3 Manager!

Each year the Department of Housing and Residential Life honors a valued partner who embodies the spirit of the Timson Award. This award is given to a Facilities Management staff member whose outstanding service makes a difference in the lives of residents, and is selected by staff members.

This award was established in 2010 to recognize the outstanding service of the Glen and Jane Timson family from Oologah, OK. Four Timson children worked for Housing and Residential Life as student staff, graduate assistants, or full-time professionals.



Saying Goodbye and New Dreams to Pursue

In April, FM held a “come and go” celebration to thank **Cathy Stoops** for her service to FM and wish her a great retirement. Cathy will enjoy spending time with her family and pursuing her love for animals. (Right) **Jeff Sweeden** presenting Cathy a signed OSU picture.



In June, FM said goodbye to **Mallory Ring**, OSU student employee, who graduated this spring and will be continuing her dream to become a registered nurse at OU Health Sciences in the fall. Mallory came to FM her first year and remained a student employee throughout all four years at OSU. She has become a friend to many here and will be greatly missed!

Water Treatment Plant Presentation to Stillwater Fire Department

Stan Vick, Energy Services Sr Water Plant Operator, is pictured giving a presentation about the OSU Water Treatment Plant to Stillwater Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Jory Stanley and Fire Marshall Steve Sylvester. They expressed how much they were impressed with the WTP team, overall cleanliness and organization of the water treatment plant.



Pictured: Stan Vick, giving presentation (L to R) to: Stillwater Fire Department Assistant Fire chief Jory Stanley (holding glasses), FM ES Utilities Production Manager Kenny Sylvester (wearing black facemask) and Fire Marshall Steve Sylvester (wearing black jacket).

FM Holds Blood Drive on June 22

Thank You to everyone who was able to participate in the FM Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive. Blood supplies are dangerously low in Oklahoma, and donations are urgently needed to address a historic shortage, as stated by the Oklahoma Blood Institute article <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/oklahoma-blood-institute-is-seeing-worst-blood-shortage-in-decades-urges-donations/ar-AA1IA2X?ocid=hplocalnews>. The lucky donor who won the OSU Raffle Basket was **Paul Christian**, Construction and Contract Services.



FM Receives Certified Healthy Department certification in 2021

OSU Wellness implemented a new structure for the Certified Healthy Department award using a tiered system and award certificates to Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners. To accomplish the GOLD, a department must achieve a score of 76-100.

FM receives the **GOLD** Award! Thank you for making FM a healthy environment for faculty, staff, students; thereby supporting the culture for an overall healthier OSU.



Former OSU President Hargis Sends Note of Thanks

FM received a note of appreciation from former OSU President Burns Hargis for the extra efforts to make the Spring Commencement a success.

A huge thanks goes out to you and all of your crew for the outstanding job you did to make the Commencement programs such a success. I know being outside presented a lot of challenges and extra work for you all, but please know that it was noticed and greatly appreciated.

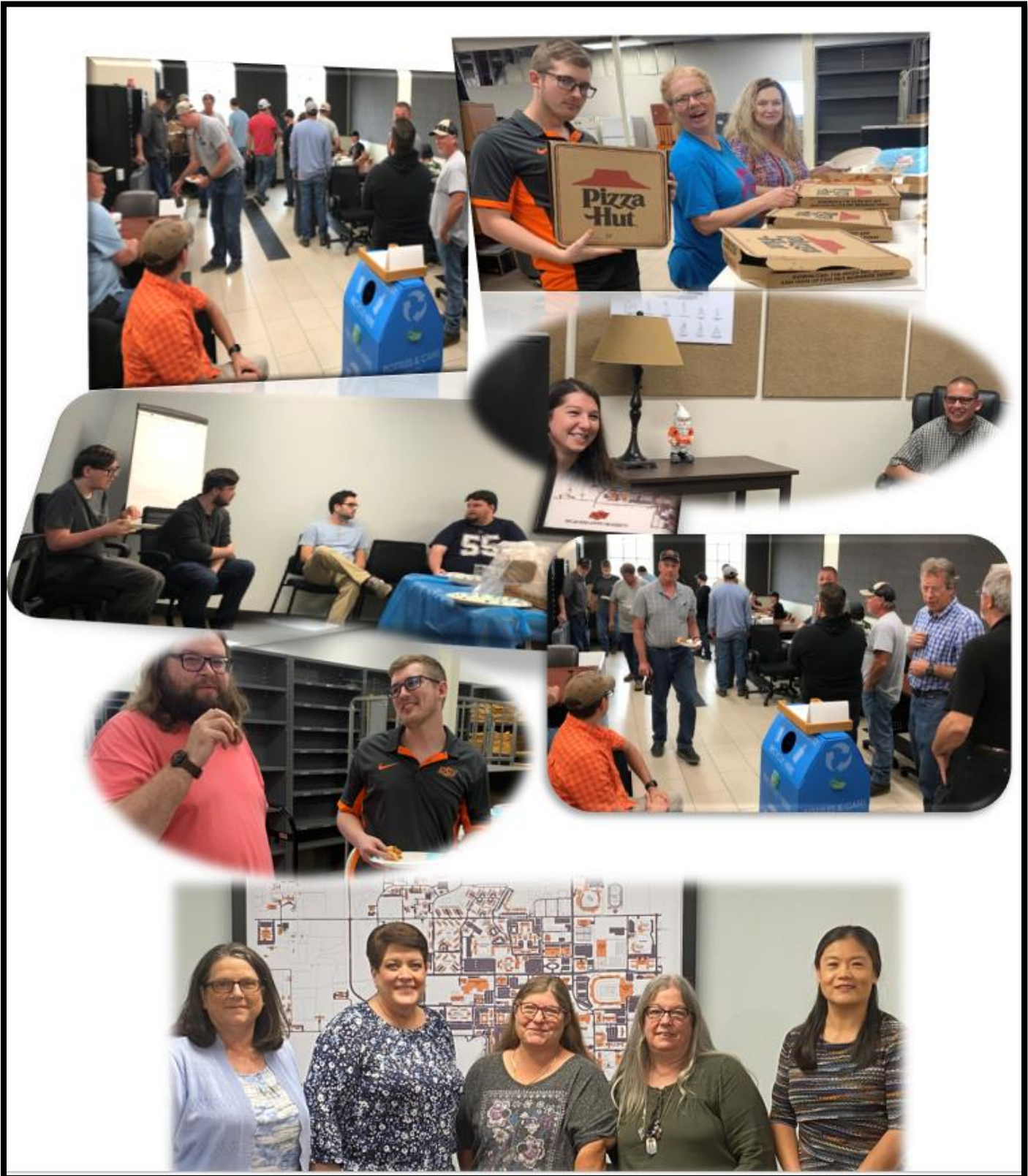
You should take pride in the great work you did to bring together the excellent celebration for our students, and their families. It was a great day for **Oklahoma State University** and I thank you for your contributions to the success.

Thanks again and Go Pokes!

Burns Hargis

Thank You for Your Efforts

To show appreciation for the all the hard work that had been put into this year, along with giving a COVID return to work update. All FM employees were provided with Pizza and Information Flyer in early June. Below are a few pictures from the event.



Operations and Maintenance Provides Assistance to OSU President Dr. Kayse Shrum

Jeff Sweeden, Director and the Operations & Maintenance Team received a "Thank You" note from OSU President Dr. Kayse Shrum.

Hi Jeff,

Ashley let me know how wonderful you were to work with while getting Darren and I settled into the Lincoln House. I very much appreciate you and your teams' assistance during my transition to Stillwater. I can't thank you all enough for the work that went into the house.

Thank you, again!

Dr. Shrum & Darren Shrum

Note of Appreciation from Langston University

Gabe Dreiling, Director Construction and Contract Services and **Kim Trunk**, Manager CCS received a note of appreciation from Langston University President Kent Smith and VP Teresa (Graves) Powell.

Gabe and Kim,

Thank you both so much for all your time, attention, and expertise shared with us throughout this RFP process. Your unique perspectives and insight have been invaluable throughout this process and we are so very grateful! We hope you visit us often and we look forward to working more closely with you and your team as we build an exciting new model for our facilities, dining, grounds, and janitorial teams.

Thank You, All! Please consider this your standing invitation to join us anytime!

Sincerely,

Theresa



Theresa (Graves) Powell / Vice President for Operations / Office of the President

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The Newest Members of the FM Family

Due to the upheaval caused by the covid-19 pandemic, all new full time employees from 2020 are being included here to ensure everyone is recognized. **The below list is for January 2020 to July 2021.**

Thank You for Choosing Facilities Management as Your Place of Work

FM Administration:

- Brigett Broyles

Operations & Maintenance:

- Austin Hogsett
- Robert Kelley
- Kyle Smith
- Jacob Gale
- James Moody
- Adam Thompson
- Russell Pereira
- Melissa Cooper
- Nathan Smith
- Jessie Stanley
- Rafael Cardenas
- Daniel Coldiron
- Joseph Ventris
- David Chennault II
- Robert Henry
- Dakotah Pace
- Joakim Olsen
- Derek (DJ) Paaluhi, Jr.
- Dale Spence
- Stephen Stepp
- Jace Ogden
- Gary Hickerson
- Harvey Birchfield
- Brandon Dobson
- Alan Castleberry

Construction & Contract Services:

- Wesley Moffatt
- Scott Seabridge

Landscape Services:

- Travis Kyle
- Robert Fields
- Sean Samson
- Terence Newton
- Morgan Wehr
- Robert Minton
- Steve Essex
- Trenton Passmore
- Braeden Newell
- Sam Eickenhorst
- Isaiah Teran
- Tyler Troppman
- Daniel Gaughan
- Jana Pirtle
- Savana Wheatley

Energy Services:

- Steven Payne
- Kristeena Blaser
- Michael Hicks
- Michael Turner
- Tanner Graves
- Nicholas McKnight

Business Operations:

- Darwin Brock
- Jordan Hay
- Micheal Robertson
- Jeffrey Cook
- Sheri Hughes

We Are Glad You're Here!

Striving For Excellence - What Our Customers Say about FM

FSS - Signs

The sign shop has amazing customer support. They are always proactive and pleasant to work with. I wish the way they treat their customers could be bottled and given to others. This is a valuable skill and is appreciated.

Environmental Health and Safety

FSS - Keys

Updates, response times, and technician's skills have been excellent!

Residential Life

Control Systems & MEP-Mechanical HVAC

The workers went out of their way to please the faculty and did a GREAT job!

Entomology & Plant Pathology

Operations & Maintenance – Zone 2

The workers did a great job, good work.

Human Sciences

FSS Moves, Operations & Maintenance Zone 1 and Zone 2

We appreciate all the teams and individuals involved in this project. Everyone was expedient in making contact and getting the project solved efficiently, professionally AND times. The teams involved have never disappointed us in the projects they solve & complete for us.

Graduate College

Operations & Maintenance Zone 3

Super-fast and completed the issues with a sense of urgency.

Residential Life

Landscape Services – Shop Support Services

Really appreciate the flexibility in their schedule. The job was done in minimal time and done safely. Thanks!

CEAT

Hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of the FM Newsletter!

Have a Great Summer 😊

The graphic features a background image of a large, red brick university building with a central tower and a green lawn in front. The text is overlaid on this image. On the right side, the words 'Core Values' are written in a bold, black font with an orange underline. Below this, four values are listed in a vertical column: 'Respect', 'Integrity', 'Safety', and 'Excellence'. Each value has a large, bold, orange letter as its first letter. On the left side, the words 'Vision Statement' and 'Mission Statement' are written in a bold, black font with a black underline. Below each title is a grey rectangular box containing the corresponding statement in a smaller, black font. At the bottom center, the OSU logo (a stylized 'OSU' in orange and black) is followed by the text 'FACILITIES MANAGEMENT' in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Vision Statement
Creating a campus of distinction through excellence, innovation, and leadership.

Mission Statement
We maintain a safe and inspiring campus supporting the OSU mission of education, research and outreach.

Core Values

Respect

Integrity

Safety

Excellence

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MANAGEMENT