Farewell, Fine Mentors

It is appropriate to say farewell to a large number of employees who retired from the Caltech Facilities Management team over the period where we were distanced by the CoViD–19 pandemic. “Farewell” doesn’t mark an ending, but the beginning of a new leg on a journey. These are people who dedicated important parts of their lives to Caltech, and we should all wish them joy and great adventure.

Jennifer Daniels spent 51 dedicated years supporting Facilities Services and Planning. Spending four decades or more working hard for our group, Kathleen Dutton (Grounds, 40 years); Bob Sanders (Central Utility Plant, 41 years); Art Seiden (Environment Health and Safety, 41 years) and Don Thomas (Roofing Shop, 41 years) all provided us with some of their best work.

Working hard to support our mission for over thirty years were Francisco Compean (Campus Custodial, 35 years); Juan Méndez (Housing Custodial, 31 years); Raúl Piedra-Resendiz (Grounds, 31 years), Herlinda Vega (Campus Custodial, 38 years) and Mike Vega (Electric Shop, 30 years).

Serving with dedication for twenty years or more were Engracia Álvarez (Campus Custodial, 20 years); Eddie Caldwell (Lock Shop, 21 years); Luz Castillo (Campus Custodial, 23 years); Mike Cronk (Electric Shop, 28 years); Rosa Diaz (Housing Custodial, 20 years); Newell Jordan Jr. (Electric Shop, 23 years); Lety Márquez (Facilities Administration, 25 years); David Mercado (Electric Shop, 21 years) and Steven Zwick (Grounds, 29 years).

In the group that spent over ten years contributing to Caltech, we recognize that they brought insight and skills from earlier parts of their career. Contributing to our mission were José Benavides (Grounds, 19 years); Jim Cowell (Associate Vice President, Facilities, 14 years); Manuel Lagang (Campus Custodial, 19 years); Gloria Méndez (Campus Custodial, 13 years); Cloyd Myers (Plumbing Shop, 14 years); Javier Palacios Sandoval (Paint Shop, 19 years) and María Sosa (Campus Custodial, 12 years).

Each of these people left big footprints to fill. They also marked the path that will help guide us towards doing our work better as Caltech Facilities employees.

Moving Forward in Facilities

One of FED’s primary goals is to encourage employees to grow and advance. When you get a chance, please congratulate the following people, who have taken on new roles and responsibilities:

Misael Arteaga, Roofer/Carpenter Aide; Mirna Larios, Faculty Housing Custodian; Victor Bonilla, Painter Lead; Dario DeLaRosa, HVAC Mechanic Aide; Sal Escobar, HVAC Supervisor; David Feldser, Lead Electrician; Francisco Gutierrez, HVAC Mechanic; Jason Gomez, Fire Technician Assistant; Alex Hofer, Locksmith/Carpenter Aide; Eugene Kim, Senior Project Manager; Raymond Merlin, Project Coordinator, Facilities Operations; Ubaldo Morales, HVAC Mechanic; Denis Paz, Senior Utility Plant Operator; Dustin Ramsey, Utility Mechanic; Tim Ranalli, Director of Maintenance Management; Vincent Riley, Jr., Logistics Associate; Ben Smith, Senior Project Manager; Jerry Stewart, Facilities Maintenance Project Coordinator; Orlando Villegas, Lead Logistics Associate.