

# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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Dear Facilities Management Team,

Utility Services continues their commitment to CSU. Their work is largely unaffected by the number of people on campus, and their team of 29 employees must deliver ongoing service to buildings despite a recent decrease in population. So, they're still busy making steam and chilled water, running boilers and chillers, keeping the water and sewer flowing, and paying the water, gas, and electric bills. And with spring in full swing, the warmer weather means that it's finally time for them to get the fleet of chillers prepared for summer—a big task for the group. Also, on their to-do list is their annual steam utility shutdown when the team does maintenance work that requires an outage. With much construction now fast-tracked, the group anticipates they will have an active summer, continuing to provide construction support in the form of plan reviews, inspections, and locates.

This section, like many in our department, have been faced with a variety of adaptations to the typical work routines in response to COVID-19, such as an unexpected physical separation of teams, becoming more comfortable with virtual collaboration, and a surprising acceleration of projects. Utility Services has responded, taking the same measures as all of FM, by splitting crews, having rotations away from campus, and working remotely if at all possible. They also say they are fortunate, in that, a large portion of their work takes place outdoors, allowing them to both enjoy the weather and stay distanced. Their manager Gene Ellis told me, "I am very proud of my team and extraordinarily grateful for their service. They have shouldered their work during this time of adversity without complaint, have creative ideas to help reduce operational costs during this time of uncertain budgets, and stand ready to support each other and all of their peers across FM."

Thank you for your service and dedication,



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