

DECEMBER
01, 2021

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FM WEEKLY
COMMUNICATION

Issue 146

Dear FM Team,

Sheela Backen has worked for CSU Facilities Management for 26 years. She carries with her an extraordinary perspective of accomplishing significant environmental initiatives on behalf of the CSU community. She has fostered strong relationships across campus, including with our partners in Housing and Dining Services and Environmental Health Services. **Let's celebrate her career and contributions tomorrow, December 2, from 1-2 p.m. in the LSC Ballroom D.** If you can't make it to Sheela's retirement party, please take the time to stop by and wish her the best. Her last day with FM is December 31, 2021.

A little about Sheela's time in FM: She started her CSU Facilities Management career in September 1995 as a custodian, cleaning Wagar, Forestry, and helping in Natural Resources when needed. In June 1997 she was promoted to supervisor of the Integrated Solid Waste (ISW) crew. You may have seen Sheela driving the trash and recycle trucks; she has a commercial driver's license and fills in when staff are on leave. For the last 22 years Sheela has compassionately and thoughtfully managed and led the ISW program. Her job focus in ISW has been to divert as much campus waste from the landfill as possible by reuse, recycling, and composting. Back then, the ISW crew diverted about 26% of the waste stream. Now their diversion rate has expansively grown to 70% to 85%!



"Sheela has made such an everlasting impact on CSU and Facilities," Jamie Cardenas shared. "What makes her special, besides her awesome programs, is her heart. I have watched her over the years lend a helping hand to anyone and everyone who wanders into the Building Services Group section of our building. She does so with kindness and no matter how difficult it might be to tear away from the work at hand, she puts it on hold without any hesitation. I don't think I would be overstating it when I say she is the glue that holds everyone together. I have been so thankful to have had her support and knowledge. She will be missed. I wish her the very best of the exciting years ahead!"

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After so much time dedicated to FM and the CSU community, in January Sheela plans to launch her retirement driving across the country to visit family and friends. “The first thing I am going to do is travel to Florida to see one of my sons who just moved there,” she said. “Then we will go to Dallas, Texas to see my oldest sister, my niece and nephew, and their families. We will also travel to Corpus Christi to visit a family friend. After that it’s off to Arizona to see my husband’s family and my youngest sister. Then home again to make plans to go see my son in Northern California and my youngest son in Washington State.” After all those miles, Sheela intends to find a part time position to keep herself busy.

She has met and worked with most of the FM staff at one time or another throughout her career. “There are so many people to thank for their support and assistance throughout the years. I would never be able to list everyone,” she commented. “It is so hard

to say goodbye to everyone I have worked with throughout the years.” Specifically, Sheela wanted to express her gratitude for Sandy Sheahan for being “a great role model and mentor,” and Jamie Cardenas for being “the best supervisor I have had at CSU.” She also gave a call out to Michael Randall, Jeff Strauch, and Dennis Cyboron for their advice and help over the years.

Please join me in celebrating Sheela and wishing her a wonderful retirement,



Tom Satterly, P.E.
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