

RON FLINN RETIRES AFTER 57 YEARS AT MICHIGAN STATE

Ron Flinn started working

part-time in the physical plant department while an undergrad at Michigan State University back in the late 1950s. After 57 years of employment at MSU, many years of leadership to the Michigan chapter and Midwest region of APPA, and serving as APPA's 1996-97 President, Ron is now retired.

At Ron's retirement celebration on February 10, the MiAPPA chapter announced that its CEFPP scholarship would be named in his honor. In addition,



Pictured (l to r) Michael Hughes, AVP Ferris State University (MiAPPA VP); Ron Flinn, retired VP MSU and APPA Past President; Peter Strazdas, AVP Western Michigan University and APPA President-Elect; and Dan Bollman, AVP MSU and Ron's successor.

Lander Medlin, APPA's executive vice president, prepared a letter of commendation to be read and presented to Ron at the program. Following are some excerpts:


- "As President of APPA, Ron brought a new level of leadership to this elected position. He worked diligently to ensure the APPA organization and its staff had a clear set of expectations that were in

alignment with the strategic plan and long-term direction of the association."

- "He recognized that connecting the membership's needs and issues with the strategic vision and direction for APPA would ensure we remain the association of choice for all educational institutions."

Ron Flinn made a huge impression on me regarding leadership in the face of massive budget cuts. In the early 1990s he served on APPA's Rightsizing Task Force, whose work was published in the 1995 APPA book *Rightsizing Effectively*. Ron clearly and plainly described how the facilities department could, and should, do the following:

- set realistic albeit difficult expectations for the campus regarding reductions in service during major mandated cuts,
- communicate with the campus community at all stages,
- view the cuts as a "window of opportunity to reorganize" and innovate, and
- recognize the need to have "the best of everyone" involved in the changes and appreciate the staff's service to the institution.

Congratulations to Ron on his well-deserved retirement. 



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