# **Steve Gilsdorf is the 2019 Recipient** of the Rex Dillow Award

### We are happy to announce that

the 2019 recipient of the Rex Dillow Award for Outstanding Article is Steven D. Gilsdorf for his article, "The Custodian's Role in Student Success," originally



published in the November/December 2018 issue of Facilities Manager. APPA's Information and Communications Committee,

led by Vice President David Handwork of Arkansas State University, made its selection from the seven eligible articles published in the six issues of *Facilities* Manager within the past year.

Since 1987, APPA has presented the annual Rex Dillow for Outstanding Article in Facilities Manager to the feature article deemed most relevant, readable, and valuable from the previous year's eligible articles. Gilsdorf, director of custodial building services at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, received his award during the Awards Reception at the APPA 2019 conference in Denver, Colorado.

With greater pressures on students and their well-being, Gilsdorf sees the custodian as a key ally in an institution's accountability to the student and the campus community. An excerpt follows:

The custodian works in every place and sees every face on campus, in the classrooms and hallways of academic buildings and in the living and lounging areas of the residence halls. Often, custodians see where students are more vulnerable, open to, and possibly in need of influence. It is the custodian's special role that allows them to be overlookedas well as placing them in a unique position to help students in need.

To read the entire article, visit *https://* www1.appa.org/FacilitiesManager/article. cfm?ItemNumber=4268&parentid=2731. Congratulations to Steve on receiving the

2019 Rex Dillow Award. If you have an article, case study, or ideas to share with fellow APPA members and readers of Facilities Manager, please contact me directly at steve@appa.org. I welcome your contributions.

## INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP **ARE FOCUS OF 2019 THOUGHT LEADERS**

APPA has just published the 2019 Thought Leaders report, entitled Innovation in an Age of Disruption, and made it

available first to attendees of the July 15-17 APPA conference in Denver. The free PDF of the report will be available to all members following the conference via the APPA Bookstore and at https://www.appa. org/thought-leaders-series/.



Contents of the new TLS report include:

- Key takeaways about innovation and entrepreneurship
- Common approaches to higher education challenges
- Using innovation and entrepreneurship to tackle adaptive challenges
- Applying an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset to higher education's challenges
- · Applying the mindset to facilities' adaptive challenges
- Questions for campus discussion

Many thanks to Thought Leaders sponsors Jacobs and Johnson Controls Inc. for their continued support and helping APPA provide the valuable Thought Leaders reports to all at no charge.

### COMING IN SEP/OCT 2019

- Profile of President Ruthann Manlet
- APPA 2019 Conference Highlights
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