

NEWS RELEASE:

At this year's annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC on February 11, 2020, one of the highlights of the 25th NSPMA & 50th South Carolina SPMA Conference was the announcement of the National School Plant Manager of the Year award recipient.

We are honored to announce that the winner of the 2020 National School Plant Manager of the Year award is Keith W. Watkins, Assistant Director of Facilities for the City School District of New Rochelle, New York. Mr. Watkins is in his 3rd year of his current position with a total of over 30 years in school facilities operations and management. Mr. Watkins exemplifies every trait desired within a facilities director as demonstrated daily by his innovative and creative skill sets. In his 30 years of service Mr. Watkins is known as a resource and go to person. Keith has shown he is a dynamic leader with a great drive to advance any initiative that is put before him.

As Assistant Director of Facilities, Keith performs his responsibilities with four core values; leadership, service, communication and integrity. These qualities are a constant that he applies to all problems. He is a solution provider, using research and data to provide innovative solutions while seeking to integrate best practices.

Mr. Watkins' dedication to the profession of school facilities management is evident through his leadership and many accomplishments. His continuing education has earned him proudly the New York State Certified Director of Facilities (CDF) after a rigorous training program in 2014. Keith's leadership and service includes being Past President of the New York State School Facilities Association (NYSSFA), serving as a former School Board member in his community of Phoenix CSD and currently serving as the President of the National School Plant Manager Association (NSPMA).

While Keith has only been in New Rochelle since May of 2017, he has implemented numerous positive directives, provided training and professional development, and sparked a new sense of ownership and dedication amongst the facilities staff. Keith's accomplishments within the department in such a short period are amazing. Mr. Watkins transformed a department that had regularly received criticism and negativity, to one that now receives a multitude of praise and gratitude from students, staff and patrons. The facilities team has a bright future and shows unlimited capabilities under the new leadership of Mr. Watkins.

In total, Mr. Watkins is the epitome of what any School Plant Manager should be!

On behalf of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, we want to thank all of the qualified candidates for this year's award. We wish them much success in their future.

AJ Nordt, CPE, CEFM
NSPMA Scholarship and Awards Committee Chairperson
acnjsbga@aol.com