Profile of
Dale Lovejoy
Power Plant Superintendent, Facilities Management
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
2023 Regents University Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Serves UW-Parkside as the Heating and Chilling Plant Superintendent, a role he has held for about 25 years.
- Started career serving as a boiler technician aboard USS Wichita (AOR-1) in the U.S. Navy; continued his service at the Navy Base in Great Lakes, Illinois, as a boiler technician “A” school instructor at Service School Command; then began his career at UW-Parkside in 1994, as a power plant operator senior in the Heating and Chilling Plant, and by 1998, took over as the power plant superintendent.
- Manages the daily operations of the most critical building on campus; responsible for the utility distribution to the campus that is the basis for a safe and comfortable learning environment; also serves as the main administrator for all the campus building automation systems that ensure effective and efficient delivery of services to the campus buildings; offers entertaining and educational tours of the plant.
- Routinely reads professional articles and journals, attends training sessions, and develops or reworks procedures based on changing trends or technology; identifies and invests in outside training for his staff to ensure that they stay current on their training and knowledge base.
- Recently began bringing on plant operators from other facilities around the state to observe and assist the operations in the plant as a cross-training exercise and will send some of his operators to other plants in the state to do the same; recognizes the need for talent development and advocates for creating and nurturing a critical talent pipeline for plant operators for industrial utility plants across the state.
- Served as department interim director about seven years ago while still holding his other full-time job of running the Heating and Chilling Plant; co-chaired the search committee for the new director.
- Instrumental in information gathering, technical advising, and advocacy for much-needed renovations to Wyllie Hall and appeared in a video that became a key component in the renovation project becoming a reality.
- Possesses a wealth of institutional and industry knowledge; offers an honest, professional opinion and always willing to teach, train, and step in to help a colleague.
- Developed a regimen for training and onboarding new employees who have technical acumen but limited experience working in industrial steam plants; has hired and trained six new plant operators out of a staff of eight full-time employees.

In the words of a supervisor:
- “Dale is willing to work with any [facilities management] employee who asks him for help trouble shooting a problem. That kind of care, knowledge and ingenuity provides invaluable training for employees.”

In the words of colleagues:
- “It is widely held by peers, State, and UW System Administration and inspectors that the Heating and Chilling Plant at Parkside is the cleanest, safest, most reliable and most well-maintained Heating and Chilling Plant in the UW System. This is due to Dale’s leadership and attention to detail for the past 29 years.”
  —Debbie Ford, then-Chancellor, UW-Parkside
- “Dale has aided my growth as a professional, and his knowledge and attention to detail has given me tremendous peace of mind in knowing that our campus is in good hands while he is operating the plant.”
  —John P. Bruch, Chief Facilities Officer, UW-Parkside