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THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION RECEIVES APPA'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

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Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 10, 2006—The Smithsonian Institution, was awarded APPA's highest institutional honor—the Award for Excellence—for its commitment to excellence in the field of educational facilities. William W. Brubaker, director, facilities engineering and operations, accepted the award on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution during APPA's awards banquet at the Campus of the Future conference in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

According to APPA President Jack Colby, assistant vice chancellor for facilities operations at North Carolina State University, the Smithsonian Institution's office of facilities engineering and operations exemplifies excellence in all of the areas necessary to achieve the award: leadership; strategic and operational planning; customer focus; information and analysis; development and management of human resources; process management; and performance results.

"The Smithsonian's office of facilities engineering and operations has established a pace-setting standard for the museum and scientific communities," Colby said. "The office exists to provide safe and reliable buildings and structures to support scientific research and to store and display exhibits including over 136 million priceless artifacts that have been gathered from across the world over the Institution's 160-year history."

The Smithsonian Institution is the first institution of its type to receive the Award for Excellence. All other award recipients to date have been colleges and universities. "The Smithsonian's office of facilities engineering and operations is a pro-active group committed to excellence in a very high profile environment. They do an outstanding job being the stewards to many of our nation's treasures." Colby added.

The Smithsonian's office of facilities engineering and operations is responsible for over 600 buildings and structures ranging in age from new to 175 years old covering approximately nine million square feet of owned facilities; 900,000 square feet of leased space; and 20,000 acres of land worldwide. The Smithsonian Institution's office of facilities engineering and operations employs over 1,700 employees.

The APPA Award for Excellence is designed to recognize and advance excellence in the field of educational facilities. Originally established in 1988, the Award for Excellence is APPA's highest institutional honor and provides educational institutions the opportunity for national and international recognition for their outstanding achievements in facilities management. The award is designed to highlight the essential role of facilities operations in the overall institutional mission and vision.

APPA is the association of choice serving educational facilities professionals, representing more than 1,500 learning institutions encompassing over 4,700 individuals throughout the United States, Canada, and internationally.

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