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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN RECEIVES APPA'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

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Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 10, 2006—The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., was awarded APPA's highest institutional honor—the Award for Excellence—for its commitment to excellence in the field of educational facilities. Rich Robben, executive director of plant operations, accepted the award on behalf of the University of Michigan 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 University of Michigan's plant operations department 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 data collection and monitoring done by the University of Michigan's plant operations department is impressive,” Colby said. “The campus is impressive in both its exterior and interior spaces, and their communication and training programs are unique and top quality.”

“University of Michigan's plant operations department enjoys a significant role planning in concert with upper levels of the university administration. The department's views on energy and maintenance issues are strongly supported by upper management in policy and project decisions, which speaks to the quality of the program and the cohesiveness of the school's strategic approach,” Colby added.

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor is one of the top-ranked public universities in the world, with 24,800 undergraduate and 14,700 graduate students in 600 academic programs. The Ann Arbor campus occupies 1127 University buildings, including leased and rental properties, totaling over 30 million square feet. The plant operations department employs 1,280 people.

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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