Two IFMA New Mexico Chapter Members Awarded Global Recognition!

Melanie R. Garcia, M.S. and Stewart Livsie, CFM, FMP, have been named as recipients of IFMA’s “Forty Under 40” award program. The program was initiated by the Global Board of Directors to celebrate IFMA’s 40th anniversary in 2020.

There were over 140 nominees from all over the world. Of the 40 award winners, 15 are from outside the United States. Melanie and Stewart are outstanding FM professionals, as attested by their inclusion in this group. IFMA New Mexico should also be proud to have two of its members recognized. We forget at times that we’re as much on the cutting edge of our industry as other global locations. There were three other areas with multiple awardees; Chicago, Toronto and Washington DC.

Requirements for the award were extensive. Individuals working within the Built Environment were nominated based on how they are making a positive impact within FM whether through innovation or discovery, special achievements, overcoming extreme challenges, making notable contributions, rendering aide to others or bringing recognition to the profession. Nominees were also reviewed for their accomplishments in FM, how they’re helping the next generation of FM, their enthusiasm for the industry and what they do to make our world a better place.

Melanie’s nomination primarily focused on her role as the Facilities Manager for the UNM Anderson School of Management and the construction of the McKinnon Center for Management, a project which included the demolition of one of the original buildings, the buildout of the new 63,445 square foot structure and the occupancy of this high-tech addition to the campus. The true challenge was stepping into the middle of this already underway, highly complex project, after being in the position for only three months. Her drive to gain more in depth knowledge during the project led to her enroll in Engineering Construction Management classes at UNM. Her exceptional performance ensured a seamless transition for staff and faculty at this premier, globally recognized business program.

Stewart is the Manager, Maintenance & Construction, for the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. His nomination essentially dealt with his extraordinary management of life safety protocols in the midst of a massive tenant improvement project for the clinic, where protection of immunocompromised patients and staff is paramount. He was accountable for directing revisions to the general contractor’s schedule based on defect discoveries with the original construction just prior to the scheduled start, coordinating remediation and evidence preservation and analyzing critical defect data, managing the budgets for the construction and added remediation work and ensuring the clinic was operational and safe each day after contractors worked all night and on weekends. His leadership has also led to groundbreaking changes in how UNM Health Sciences Center is able to self-perform projects, maintaining internal control over every aspect, which translates to significant savings. Stewart is also an accomplished speaker and has presented at two of IFMA’s WWP conferences and other healthcare venues.

Both Melanie and Stewart found their paths to FM in round about ways, and both have excelled at their chosen profession. We congratulate them both for this recognition and the honor of being “Forty Under 40” awardees!!!

To read more about Melanie and Stewart and other awardees, check your Nov/Dec issue of IFMA’s FMJ publication. Links are included in emails from IFMA.