

Managing to excel

MSU recognized for management, Kohanek for outstanding service

By: Matt Sauer

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Both Minnesota State and MSU project manager Larry Kohanek were recognized with management awards at a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities ceremony last month.

The MnSCU awards focus on the facility and financial management of the state universities and community colleges in Minnesota. All state schools were considered for the categories, which included awards for excellence in financial management and excellence in facilities management.

A third honor, for outstanding service, was also given to certain individuals throughout MnSCU who contributed to furthering professionalism in their management of finances. Only three MnSCU employees were recognized for this distinction.

MSU garnered awards in all three categories and won the annual award for excellence in facilities management for the eighth consecutive time. The excellence in financial management award was its seventh in the past eight years

Kohanek, meanwhile, was recognized for the outstanding service award.

"During these challenging economic times, I am particularly grateful that we have leaders in finance and facilities with strong accomplishments," said Laura King, the system's vice chancellor and chief financial officer. "It is a pleasure to recognize them for their achievements. They work hard to increase efficiency, and we know it pays off for our students and the people of Minnesota."

Kohanek has worked for MSU since 1986 and has occupied the roles of planner, project manager, physical plant director and construction director during his tenure. He is also a volunteer director for Mankato's Open Door Health Clinic, which assists people who are either under-insured or not insured at all.

"We're pleased that others recognize the high-quality work that our finance and facilities employees consistently perform," said MSU President Richard Davenport in a recent press release. "I want to congratulate Larry Kohanek, who was recognized for his outstanding contributions in managing the construction of two buildings. We are proud of the excellent work performed by our employees in the Finance and Administration Division."

The awards have been conducted since 1997. MnSCU uses the ceremony to recognize outstanding achievements by financial and facility employees in its schools. Eight schools in all were given awards for the excellence in financial management, while five total were recognized for the excellence in facilities management. Nominations were made by university presidents and selected members of department staff.

MnSCU schools were evaluated on their ability to handle money responsibly and efficiently, and for the timely and successful completion of improvement and repair projects. Satisfaction of campus personnel and students were also considered.

Matt Sauer is a Reporter staff writer