



Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

March 2026



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

FS Grant Award for Fleet Maintenance Shop Expansion

By Kellie Fritze

FS has secured funding for a \$6.8 million expansion and modernization of our fleet maintenance shop. The total project investment combines awarded grant funds with a UAF match, representing a significant commitment to the reliability, safety, and long-term sustainability of campus fleet operations.

The project will add approximately 6,000 square feet of new space, including two maintenance bays with hydraulic lifts dedicated to bus maintenance, a third bay for general fleet work, a bridge crane, and expanded space for mechanic tools and parts. An additional 1,500 square feet of the existing bus storage area will be renovated to better support operations. The expansion will also provide space for three planned CNG buses - one full-size 40-passenger bus and two smaller 20-25 passenger vehicles - which were grant funded through FAST. The facility will continue to support passenger vans used for smaller shuttle routes.

This project wouldn't have happened without the leadership and persistence of Susan Henrichs and Cam Wohlford. They put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to move this forward. Because of their work, we're in a much better position to maintain our fleet, operate more efficiently, and support more sustainable vehicle operations for years to come.

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Employee of the Month - Clinton Snyder

Please join me in congratulating Clinton Snyder as our March Employee of the Month!

Clinton is one of those people whose steady leadership and deep knowledge quietly hold things together in ways that make a real difference. Whether he is mentoring a technician, troubleshooting a complex HVAC issue, or stepping forward when help is needed beyond our campus, Clinton represents the very best of Facilities Services. This recognition reflects both his long-standing contributions and his recent willingness to lead when it mattered most.

Reasons for Nomination

Achievements and Accomplishments:

Although Clinton has had a long and distinguished career with UAF Facilities Services, first as a painter, then as a sheet metal fabricator, and finally as a building automation specialist, the reason I'm nominating him this month is related to the recent work he helped facilitate at UAS in Juneau. When the call came out that we needed 10 people to travel to Juneau to help shovel snow off the roofs, Clinton was literally the first person to step forward. He agreed to serve as the crew lead for the group, and went down a day early with Darrin Edson to help get everything set up. Despite being 20 years older than most of his team mates, he more than carried his weight with the snow removal tasks. His leadership was instrumental in the success of the whole project. Despite the long days and hard work, he maintained a positive attitude and helped everyone else on the team every chance he got.

Positive Attitude and Behavior:

Clinton always has a positive attitude in the HOST room. He spends quite a bit of time explaining maintenance processes to the less experienced technicians, always cheerfully and with the best intent. He is the cornerstone of the HVAC shop, a natural leader, and a fantastic resource.

Teamwork and Collaboration:

Again, looking at the Juneau trip, Clinton stepped forward into the crew lead role immediately. Within 12 hours of being asked, he was on a plane. As a leader he is careful and consistent, providing thoughtful guidance in any situation. From what we heard, there was no damage to any roof surface as a result of our work at UAS, and I have no doubt that was a direct result of Clinton's diligent oversight of the work.

Leadership and Initiative:

Clinton has been a shop lead in HVAC for many years, most recently on the Building Automation team. He excels at teaching people new things, and does so in a way they understand. He has become a resource for everyone in the building, including DD&C and members of the administration when they need accurate information regarding just about any UAF Facilities related topic.

Customer Service and Satisfaction:

Clinton is well known on campus as the "go-to" for anything and everything HVAC related. Most building coordinators know his desk phone number, and go directly to him with questions about their buildings. He is always willing to meet people on-site, walk through their spaces, and explain how things work. I've worked with Clinton since 2012 and I don't think a building coordinator or any campus customer has ever said anything negative about the service he provides.

Congratulations to Clinton! If you'd like to nominate a colleague for next month's Employee of the Month, you can do so [here](#).



February 2026 from Amanda Wall:

I want to thank the grounds crew for their outstanding work today (and all winter!). The ADA parking spaces were cleared early this morning, and later, I noticed that paths had been carefully shoveled along both sides of the vehicles parked in those spaces as well, all while snow continues to fall heavily.

This level of attention and proactive service does not go unnoticed. I had the opportunity to thank a couple of team members in person, but I wanted to acknowledge their efforts more formally. We often hear about issues when something isn't as expected, so it feels important to recognize when work is done exceptionally well.

With a knee injury, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the importance of timely and thoughtful snow removal. Their work made a meaningful difference in accessibility and safety today, and it reflects a commitment to supporting our community.

Please extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire team.

February 2026 from Danielle:

I would like to extend a huge thank you to you and your crews for the extra effort that was clearly put in cleaning up the Butrovich Building sidewalks and parking lots over the weekend. The lots look fantastic.

Safety First

By Roger Ostrem

National Ladder Safety Month 2026 will focus on five key themes:

One: Choosing the Right Ladder

Two: Check Before You Climb

Three: Set It Up Safely

Four: Climb Safely, Work Safely

Five: Safe Steps with Step Stools



Ladders are familiar, widely available and used so frequently that they are rarely treated as the serious access equipment they truly are. Many workers believe that if they can see a ladder and climb it, no further discussion is needed.

Ladders themselves are not inherently dangerous. Rather, misuse, poor setup and lack of awareness create the risk. Effective ladder safety begins long before workers step onto the first rung and continues through the selection process, initial safety inspection, proper setup, safe usage, and finally transport and storage.

When you take one step forward on a ladder, don't take two steps backward—or worse. Ladder falls can occur in a fraction of a second. Following the proper procedures for safe ladder usage is well worth the time it takes to avoid the consequences.

Falls from height due to improper ladder usage may be perceived as unlikely or not severe because of their frequent usage, but their common usage does not lower their risk assessment. If anything, the frequent use of ladders can cause workers to tune out the potential dangers or harm, which is why it's so important to emphasize safe practices.

UAF Benefits

Contact the UA Benefits team
(907) 450-8242 | ua-benefits@alaska.edu
[Schedule one-on-one time](#)

Need personal benefits help?
[TouchCare](#) | 1-866-486-8242
assist@touchcare.com | [TouchCare's Website](#)



UAF JOBS

Current Recruitments

HVAC Technician (CT2/CT3) - 531527	Maintenance Service Worker - FS Operations Laborer 531933	Mail Clerk 531828
Sprinkler Technician - 531582	Temporary Grounds Maintenance - 531611	

First Friday Tour at the Central Heat and Power Plant

The Utilities Operations Division of Facilities Services offers monthly tours of the UAF Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant. Tours take place on the first Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m., meeting on the first floor of the CHP Turbine Building (north side entrance).

To help us plan for the appropriate number of tour guides, please email UAF-chptours@alaska.edu in advance to reserve your spot. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a special tour, please contact us at the same email address.

We look forward to seeing you!



Thank you for reading!