

AMAZING PEOPLE :

Winiecke sets very high standards for himself

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Brian Winiecke, building operations and services manager at the University Center of Lake County, is amazing.

Just before our Grayslake facility opened in October 2005, our executive director walked him around the building and told him it should always look as good. Almost four years later, it still has that brand-new building look, and our students and faculty tell us regularly what a joy it is to learn and teach here.

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special to the news-sun Brian Winiecke, building operations and services manager at the University Center of Lake County, with colleague Kim Kreml.

That the space is so comfortable and supportive of learning is no accident. It's the result of careful attention to every detail -- large and small -- by Brian Winiecke. While I have never actually seen him wearing white gloves, the standards he sets would satisfy even the most fastidious mother.

I have seldom brought anything to his attention that he has not already known about. Dead flies on a staircase not used by the general public? Yes, on the third and fourth steps before the second landing -- a test to see how long it takes the cleaning staff to notice. Despite enforcing strict standards, he is more kidded than feared by colleagues and subordinates.

When a spring snowstorm socked Lake County on a Sunday morning, he began calling the building at 7:45 a.m. to make sure that it was open it for weekend classes and, getting no answer, drove over to find that the snowplow service needed to be prompted to provide access to the parking lot. Then he stayed and welcomed students and faculty. Amazing? Not for Brian Winiecke.

-- Hilary Ward Schnadt, Associate Dean for Academic Services & Programs, University Center of Lake County

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