

Deb Blythe wins 2004 QSQP Award

Deborah Blythe was awarded the 2004 Quality Service Quality People Award in November at a reception at the Penn State for her continuous work with all departments across the university to accommodate space and facilities needs.

As Director of the Facilities Resources and Planning Office, Deb and her staff maintain space records for more than 1300 buildings throughout the 24 Penn State campuses. She is responsible for the management of 14 million gross square feet of space at University Park, with 19 million gross square feet throughout the entire system. Specifically, Deb staffs the Facilities Resources Committee, which is responsible for space assignments at University Park and campus planning at other campuses.

“Deb and her staff provide a valuable resource for this University – a job that is challenging at best and nearly impossible as worst,” said Gary C. Schultz, Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer. “She has my full respect and I can think of no one who deserves this award more.”

In a letter nominating Deb for Finance & Business's top award, Eva J. Pell, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, stated, “I am constantly amazed at Deb Blythe's creativity. Her capacity to look at the competing needs of several units, and to find solutions that satisfy all parties is really quite remarkable.”

In a supporting letter of her nomination from Rodney A. Erickson, Executive Vice President and Provost, he described Deb as “one of the very best staff members with whom I work,” and added that he “greatly values Deb's contributions to the University, and I know that many of my colleagues also share my high regard for her abilities.”

Deb came to Penn State in 1992 from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., where she served as Director of Facilities Planning. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with an Associate's Degree in Fine Arts from Tidewater Community College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Old Dominion University. Deb is married to Burton Blythe and has one son, Sean McNeilage.