



Pictured (left to right): Bill Hall, Q620; Jimmy O'Keefe, R006; David Di Giacomo, M833; Mike Finneran, K291; Ramesh Narayan, BMS Controls Technician; Juan Otero X420 (Not in the picture)



Pictured (left to right): Aram Aslanian-Persico, Bronx Energy Manager; Bill Hall, Q620; Bill Horan, Staten Island Energy Manager; Jimmy O’Keefe, R006; David Di Giacomo, M833; Lisa Williams, Energy Coordinator; Mike Finneran, K291; Christine Johnson, Solar Program Manager; Ramesh Narayan, BMS Controls Technician; Joe Chavez, Senior Energy Manager & Strategist.

DOE Energy Champions

Congratulations to the six Division of School Facilities’ staff that were recognized as Energy Champions at the 2019 DCAS Energy Recognition Ceremony on October 23rd! The Energy Champion award was created to honor City employees for their excellence in energy efficient building practices, and these five Energy Champions do an outstanding job of supporting DOE’s energy efficiency goals.

Read more about all of their hard work below:

William Hall Jr.

Custodian Engineer at Q620, the Thomas Edison Vocational High School

Bill Hall Jr. has worked at the Department of Education (DOE) for more than 20 years, and during this time, he has proven himself to be an environmental steward. Through consistent analysis and diligence, William finds solutions with minimal resource usage. He corrects equipment and controls issues to maintain the useful life of the equipment, and this has both saved energy and improved the comfort of

school occupants. Since he was assigned to the Thomas Edison Vocational High School, he has saved an average of 60,000 kilowatt-hours and 100 million BTUs annually. Whether optimizing the lighting schedule for the school or creating a pneumatic controls testing panel for troubleshooting, William's work helps DOE meet its energy reduction goals.

William is currently working to identify prospective energy efficiency upgrades that will be implemented this fiscal year leveraging demand response funds. Beyond energy efficiency measures, he has advocated for water bottle refilling stations to reduce the environmental impact caused by disposable water bottles.

William is an environmental steward that loves what he does, and his dedication and impact are apparent when you walk his school with him. While the tour could not be included as part of the ceremony, DOE is nonetheless honored to recognize William as its Queens Borough Energy Champion.

Michael Finneran

Custodian Engineer at K291, Roland Hayes I.S. 291

Michael Finneran is the Custodian Engineer at Roland Hayes I.S. 291 in Brooklyn. He currently holds licenses as a Stationary Engineer and as a Refrigeration Machine Operator. The 206,000 square foot building he manages is occupied by three schools and community programs with year-round usage including nights and weekends.

Mike's interest in energy reduction turned serious after completing both BOC 1 and BOC 2. As a hands-on engineer, he wanted to learn more about actions he could implement on his own, so he signed up for a Building Retuning Pilot Program and BRT Coaching through CUNY's Building Performance Lab and the Energy Management Institute. Through the program he learned how to optimize the school's BMS to monitor and trend data to identify low-/no-cost opportunities.

He then worked with his Energy Manager and Deputy Director of Facilities to fund necessary repairs and upgrade the BMS to improve scheduling and trending capability. He established a sequence of plant start-up based on outside air temperatures, occupancy, and schedule to reduce overall demand and operational costs, as well as stand-by scheduling when spaces are not in use and while the building is closed for cleaning and maintenance work. Between March and July of 2019, Mike was able to reduce overall electricity consumption in his facility by 6% through these actions alone.

In FY19, his building was among the top 20 performers in the Department of Education's (DOE) Demand Response program. He is using his award allocation to replace the thermometers and pressure gauges across the building to verify sensor readings on heating and cooling coils, further re-tune equipment operation, and better identify inefficiencies.

In addition to fine-tuning operations at I.S. 291, Mike serves as a temporary care custodian of several other DOE facilities where he trains firemen in an optimized start-up sequence and how to identify other no-cost measures for demand reduction. He never hesitates to contact his Energy Manager,

Sustainability, or his Deputy Director of Facilities with new ideas for achieving energy reduction in any of the facilities he's working in.

DOE recognizes Mike Finneran as its Brooklyn Borough Energy Champion, a man who is a self-motivated and a hands-on engineer, who has gone above and beyond to advance his knowledge and skill in building optimization, to mentor additional staff, and to implement energy reduction plans and energy saving measures in multiple buildings.

Juan Otero

Custodial Engineer at X240

During his four years in the Department of Education (DOE), Juan has shown dedication to taking care of his building and its occupants. He leverages his previous experience working as a building inspector for New York State to bring knowledge of building systems and preventative maintenance to his current role. He takes the initiative to address building deficiencies with the DOE maintenance teams, educate school occupants about energy efficient practices, and explore energy savings opportunities by incorporating demand management into his routine.

During the summer, Juan worked with the Division of School Facilities Building Management System and Load Management teams to identify problems with the building management system and equipment scheduling and setpoints. He achieved a substantial overnight baseload reduction and continues to manually shut down equipment in anticipation of the necessary controls repairs. Additionally, he strives to engage the principal and staff to communicate the goals and benefits of energy conservation, which is an extraordinary effort as there are multiple tenants within the building.

Juan is a dedicated, courteous, and effective Custodial Engineer who is an asset in the City's drive for energy efficient building operation, and as such, he is recognized as DOE's Bronx Borough Energy Champion.

Jimmy O'Keefe

Custodial Engineer at R006, P.S. 6 Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan School

A custodial engineer at P.S. 6 Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan School, Jimmy O'Keefe works hard to keep his building in tip-top shape. Between maintaining the chillers and boilers at peak performance levels, unit ventilator maintenance, and changing belts and filters lubrication cleaning coils, Jimmy tackles every part of building maintenance which helps him operate the building in an energy-efficient manner. Additionally, he manually reduces the building's energy base load each night, and he is currently working on operating schedules for air conditioning and heating.

Jimmy works hard each day, and he maintains the building equipment in peak condition. DOE is proud to honor Jimmy as the Staten Island Borough Energy Champion.

David Di Giacomo

Custodial Engineer at M833, the High School of Economics and Finance

In David Di Giacomo's work at the High School of Economics and Finance, several thoughtful and innovative measures have been taken to maintain optimal systems performance in the 60-year-old facility. For example, David and his team returned all outside air dampers to a good state of repair in order to restore proper ventilation and benefit from free cooling opportunities. In addition, David has maintained the operation of the school's 60+ year old absorption chiller, installed in 1958. Along with his stellar work to maintain an aging facility, David has demonstrated a passion for building systems education. He has successfully completed both the Building Operators Certification Level 1 and 2 courses. Moreover, David serves as an instructor for Local 891 and Local 94, teaching coursework in efficient operations of refrigeration systems, boilers, and pumps. David Di Giacomo exemplifies the model Department of Education Energy Champion who shares his knowledge of mechanical systems operations and takes measures to maintain and optimize the performance of an aging facility, and DOE is proud to honor him as its Manhattan Borough Champion.

Ramesh Narayan

Building Management System Controls Technician, Division of School Facilities

Through his technical knowledge, energy management mindset, and customer service, Ramesh Narayan has contributed greatly to facility energy management throughout the Department of Education (DOE) portfolio. In the four years he's been with DOE, Ramesh has worked on upgrading building management systems to allow for energy efficient operations at many facilities. Additionally, Ramesh has shared his wealth of knowledge with others. His work with demand response and load management program participants, and with DOE's recent building management system training course—which focused on operating and scheduling building systems and equipment—has been an invaluable benefit to DOE's work to reduce GHG emissions.

When not educating others, Ramesh works on implementation of several projects, including retro-commissioning, ExCEL, ACE, Load Management, and Demand Response projects.

Ramesh has made many contributions to the Division of School Facilities' facility energy management programs and projects. He has a valuable combination of technical knowledge and skill – second only to his high level of customer service. DOE is fortunate to have someone of Ramesh's talent and character. The Department is proud to honor him as the Division of School Facilities' Energy Champion.