



120 State Street - Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 | (802) 828-3135 | www.education.vermont.gov

Eddie Havens honored as Vermont School Custodian of the Year

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE) in collaboration with Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance Association (VSCMA) announced last week that Eddie Havens was chosen as Vermont’s 2011 School Custodian of the Year.

Earlier this winter, school officials and administrators were invited to nominate professional school custodians for consideration for the third annual Vermont School Custodian of the Year award. In order to qualify, individuals have to exemplify the positive qualities of a hard-working and dedicated member of their school team, and must have worked full-time for a minimum of five years in a Vermont school.

Nominations were submitted by school districts across the state. The recommendations came from principals, school board members, superintendents, teachers, students and community members. Every testimonial reflected the nominee’s strong commitment to not only the building, but to its inhabitants, to the culture of learning, and to an environment of health and safety.

Judging was completed anonymously by members of the VSCMA and by employees of the VTDOE. Each nomination was reviewed and rated based on the nominee’s strengths, accomplishments, and contributions to his or her school team. The 2011 Vermont School Custodian of the Year is Eddie Havens of Middlebury Union High School (MUHS).

Havens has served the MUHS community since 1983. Many of his colleagues at the school enthusiastically participated in the nomination. Faculty and administrators recognize that an outstanding custodian does much more than clean their building. “Eddie Havens has been like a rock in our school community; steadfast and loyal” said librarian Pam Pezzulo. Their description of Eddie’s diligence and dedication, as well as his technical expertise, are factors that brought his nomination to the top of the list.

“He’s willing to do anything, and always with that wonderful smile!” said instructional assistant Madeline Tenny. Eddie’s positive attitude resonates throughout the MUHS community. “I don’t think a morning goes by when Eddie doesn’t say good morning or speak to me by name... Eddie does all he can to help and provide; he never gets rattled” said faculty member Marianne Doe. Students and staff agree that Havens is an asset to their community. “The best indicator of Eddie Haven’s place at MUHS is the high regard with which the students hold him and the respect they give him” said school-based clinician Roger Marum.

MUHS held a surprise party on Thursday, May 26th to celebrate Eddie and to share the community’s accolades. Havens will be recognized at the 54th Annual School Custodians and Maintenance Conference on June 23, 2011 at Hartford High School. VSCMA President Lyall Smith said “It’s our pleasure to recognize the important contributions of our facilities professionals toward the health and safety of our students.” Please join us in thanking Eddie Havens for a job very well done.

###