

FACILITIES FOCUS

ASSET • Central Plant • Client Support Services • Energy & Engineering • Project Management
Custodial & Resource Services • Landscape Services • FS Administration • Maintenance Services

OCTOBER 2026

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Steve Crook, plumbing under pressure

When a pipe bursts at 3:00 a.m. or a complex research facility requires ultrapure water systems, Facilities Services relies on Lead Plumber **Steve Crook**. Since joining UC Riverside in October 2018, Steve has extended his plumbing expertise to keep the university's critical infrastructure running smoothly, balancing daily maintenance with emergencies.

Working in a dynamic university environment means plans often change in an instant. Steve frequently drops everything to manage major campus crises, including basement floods, sudden water main breaks, and reverse osmosis/de-ionized water system failures. With research facilities depending on continuous utilities, Steve knows a single plumbing issue can shut down a building and halt crucial academic progress.

Steve's roots in the plumbing trade run deep. Growing up with a father in the plumbing wholesale business, Steve remembers learning about parts as early as age four. After a high school summer working for a local plumber, he joined Plumbing Specialists after graduation, prepping supplies and managing materials. After 12 years with Plumbing Specialists, he spent another 19 years with Tonkin Plumbing, honing his skills in hospitals, pharmaceutical labs, and breweries.

This rare background in medical gas and pharmaceutical infrastructure



Steve Crook, lead plumber, uses a backhoe to dig out a leaking water line at Agricultural Operations, applying a clamp to stop the flooding and triaging the site. (UCR/Courtesy Steve Crook)

provides specialized expertise that sets him apart. Plumbing Supervisor **Rich Cordova** notes that Steve possesses specialized technical knowledge and high-level problem-solving skills that cannot be replicated. In a research-intense environment, Steve understands reliable plumbing infrastructure is critical to continuous scientific

operations and experimental integrity. Taking a significant pay cut to leave a high-travel private sector job, Steve brought his talents to the university to stay closer to his family. Today, he helps lead a tight-knit team of five plumbers managing the entire campus. Outside work, Steve restores cars and serves on mission trips abroad.



OPEN JOB POSITIONS

Access Control Mechanic

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37744955>

Facilities Project Management Specialist

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37803093>

Groundskeeper (Evergreen posting; reviewed as vacancies arise)

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37482843>

Sr. Custodian (Evergreen posting; reviewed as vacancies arise)

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37656083>

Building Equipment Mechanic

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37051251>

Irrigation Mechanic

<https://jobsportal.ucr.edu/jobs/37175462>

APPLY NOW



Organizing assets for better preventative maintenance

Kudos to electrician **Sean Meyers** for his outstanding work supporting preventative maintenance and asset management. Sean has taken the initiative to organize and document information for the Electrical Shop, helping improve how the team manages equipment and maintenance records.

He has created field asset forms to gather important information, along with equipment evaluation checklists that include essential

safety considerations, such as lockout/tag out procedures.

Recognizing the extensive preventative maintenance needs across campus and the absence of a dedicated PM coordinator, Sean has developed a structure to help his team manage this work more effectively. He also continued the asset-gathering and tagging efforts started by **Alan Siero** in CSS, helping build a stronger foundation for reliable, well-documented maintenance across our buildings.

FACILITIES FOCUS

SERVICE MILESTONES

5 YEARS

Rich Cordova, Plumbing Supervisor

Jennifer Seeley, Quality Assurance Officer

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Daniel Diaz, Building Maint. Worker

Maria Harris, Sr. Custodian

Daniel Higareda, Laborer

Yolanda Kauil, Sr. Custodian

Anthony Morris, Zone Mechanic

Vanessa Orozco, Sr. Custodian

Kawika Ross, Lead Carpenter

OPEN ENROLLMENT



COMING SOON

- The 2027 Open Enrollment period runs from October 29 through November 20, 2026.
- Review the new medical plan designs and rate changes, including increased out-of-pocket expenses and copays.
- FSA enrollment does not continue automatically from year to year. You must re-enroll during Open Enrollment to continue participating.



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