

Staff Employee of the Week

David Sciarretta

David Sciarretta, power plant lead operator at the Virginia Tech Power Plant, came to Virginia Tech in 1995.

The operation of the Power Plant's complex steam turbine requires considerable knowledge of the system, and one wrong move can destroy the generator. This turbine generator reduces the amount of electricity that must be purchased from outside sources, saves Virginia Tech as much as \$1.5 million a year, and helps reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

"David consistently demonstrates considerable skill in the performance of his duties, especially in regards to the operation of the plant's turbine generator, which is central to the operation of the Power Plant," said John Beach, director of utilities and strategic initiatives.

Since he began working at the Virginia Tech Power Plant 18 years ago, Sciarretta has worked his way up: from an assistant operator, to turbine operator, to lead plant operator. In addition to serving as relief shift supervisor, one of his primary responsibilities is to coordinate the entering of preventative maintenance and work order data into the Facilities Services Computerized Maintenance System.

Sciarretta has also served the plant by accepting the undertaking of additional duties, such as learning and generating Power Plant Reports. He came into the plant early and left late to figure the system out and be able to generate the reports as needed.

"He is extremely dependable and goes above and beyond his duties to ensure the university's needs are met on a daily basis," said Billy Dudding, utilities maintenance manager.

According to colleagues, Sciarretta also takes it upon himself to aid in the training of new employees. His direction and instruction to a new employee is very thorough and proficient, which helps the new employee grasp the plant's processes and gives them an understanding of what the operation of the plant pertains to.

"He has always performed his duties to the highest level of dependability, and sometimes under extreme pressure," said Dudding. "He is also known as the go to person when it comes to coordinating maintenance projects with plant operations."

