

OUTSTANDING STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE



MICHAEL ROGERS

University of North Carolina
Charlotte, Facilities Management

As a general trades manager at the University of North Carolina Charlotte (UNCC), Michael Rogers maintains the campus' over 160 buildings. Already an impressive feat, Rogers has taken his duties to the next level, demonstrating a devotion to UNCC and all whose paths cross with the university.

Rogers and his team are responsible for ensuring the energy efficiency, comfort, safety and usability of UNCC facilities. Inspecting roofs, walls, doors, windows and foundations across campus is a critical step in doing so. In the past, this inspection and repair process was challenging, expensive and took months to complete. With several large buildings on university grounds, the maintenance team needed multiple days to prepare for the use of an 85-foot aerial lift to inspect and troubleshoot existing issues. Even then, lift limitations often led to an inaccurate or incomplete understanding of the problem, thus pushing back contractors' timelines for completing more costly repairs. Longer wait times for repairs often resulted in more damage and kept UNCC students, faculty and staff from enjoying facilities under construction. Unsatisfied with the process, Rogers spearheaded the purchase of two drones to use for inspections through high-definition video and infrared cameras. He also advocated for two staff members to receive Federal Aviation Administration training to become licensed drone operators, providing professional development opportunities for his team.

While implementing these changes took diligence and determination, Rogers' efforts quickly paid off. It takes less time to conduct inspections and the process is less intrusive to daily campus life. Contractors can complete repairs faster because of more accurate and detailed diagnoses, saving the university costly expenses. In one case, Rogers' team detected damage to shingles in five places that had otherwise gone undetected for months and was able to have the roof repaired before the damage grew.



By making such a crucial aspect of UNCC's maintenance more efficient and affordable, Michael Rogers has allowed the school to better serve its constituents for years to come. For his exemplary stewardship of financial, physical and human resources, the State of North Carolina thanks him.