

Ontiveros Honored for Excellence in Energy Renewal at The University of Texas at Austin

AUSTIN, Texas — Juan Ontiveros, associate vice president for Utilities, Energy, and Facilities Management for The University of Texas at Austin, has been selected as the first individual recipient of the Robert W. Galvin Award for Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal.

This [U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC) award was presented to Ontiveros at the [Greenbuild Leadership Awards Luncheon](#) in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 19.

The award honors the legacy of former Motorola CEO Bob Galvin, who in 2004 founded the Galvin Electricity Initiative to drive innovation and transform the nation's electric power system. USGBC created the Galvin Award to recognize individuals who, like Ontiveros, exemplify the spirit of Galvin's quest for new ideas, pursuit of excellence using quality methods and tools, and policy reforms.

Under Ontiveros' leadership of utilities and energy management operations, the university became the first college campus in the world to attain [Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal \(PEER\)](#) certification in 2014. The certification program measures and improves power system performance and electricity delivery systems. PEER certification is administered for the USGBC by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), an independent credentialing entity.

According to GBCI in its report on the university's certification process, achieving PEER certification demonstrated Ontiveros' leadership in transforming the power industry. The report identified the campus as "a showcase example of sustainable electricity system design," noting that "PEER certification validates UT Austin's accomplishments, sets a benchmark for other campus facilities, and demonstrates UT Austin's commitment to sustainable power systems and continuous improvement."

For the past 18 years, Ontiveros has managed operation of the university's combined heat and power system and district energy system, the largest of any university in the nation. During his tenure, the campus system has earned honors from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the [Association of Energy Engineers](#), among others. The university's utility and energy management system earned a District Energy Climate Award from the [International Energy Agency](#) in 2009. In 2012, Ontiveros received the Norman R. Taylor Award from the [International District Energy Association](#) for his commitment and professional contributions to the advancement of the district energy industry.

For information, contact: Laurie Lentz, University Operations Communications, 512-471-2273, laurie.lentz@austin.utexas.edu