The winner for the Cornerstone for Community or Campus Service, Bob Chiang, encourages fellow colleagues to challenge themselves in ways they never thought possible, to partner with colleagues they normally don’t work with, to work through problems together, to rely on each other – literally for your life sometimes and to achieve what seemed like insurmountable goals together. These are not the typical projects you would expect here in Facilities. You might have to do some engineering or management or plan out your strategy, but it is not a new building or underground utilities they are working on, some people can actually say this award winner simply drives them up the wall.

Bob is very supportive and encouraging of the Cornell Wellness program and has taught many FS employees how to climb the Wellness Rock Climbing Wall you see behind us.

Bob has been involved with the Wellness Program for several years as an instructor in the Wellness Rock Climbing Program. Officially he is part of the Cornell Outdoor Education program as an instructor; this is in addition to his full time work in Engineering. This role as instructor allows him to volunteer his time to work with former and current students after they have participated in a climbing class.

Bob has encouraged many Facilities employees to participate from the Shops, IT programmers, Utilities, Planning office, Engineering, Project Service Group, Transportation… you name it. All across FS people are climbing rocks with Bob.

Asa Schindler tells of the bond that is formed amongst these employees during Bob’s classes – he helps build bridges across sections and departments. Taking his classes forces you to interact with your fellow classmates and colleagues at a level you would never achieve elsewhere; forming a bond that lasts long after the class is over and fits nicely into the day to day work at Facilities. It’s an opportunity to learn with colleagues that you would otherwise only have contact with in passing, or maybe not at all.

This past Spring Bob encouraged 6 FS employees to participate and several were new employees to Cornell. They have since remarked that doing so played a large role in their orientation at Cornell.

Bob is an understated guy whose actions speak much louder than his words, and his involvement in the Wellness Rock Climbing program has done a great deal to bridge the lines between sections and departments. It is amazing how challenging people with a common goal, like climbing a great big scary wall, can connect you as colleagues on tasks and projects that suddenly seem much less daunting.