

2017 Jack McNertney MVP Award

Brian Davies

Manager of Facilities at Border Foods

"It has been my privilege to work with Brian for the last 20 years. Brian has always been a team player and a trusted partner. He handles multiple projects and responsibilities, yet always makes time to answer questions and provide feedback and support for our team in any situation that arises. I can't think of a more deserving person to receive the MVP award than Brian." — Ken Lund, Region Coach at Border Foods

Brian Davies prefers his team to receive accolades and recognition, but at this year's annual conference, he was honored with the 2017 Jack McNertney MVP Award.

Ever since he joined RFMA in 2011, he has been a champion for the franchisee community. Through his efforts, RFMA has quadrupled the number of franchisee members.

"Ric Berg at Roll-A-Shade had reached out to me every three months to ask me to become a member," he said. "I was so busy but I'd thank him and said I'd try. Then, I spoke with another Taco Bell franchisee who touted the benefits of RFMA. I looked into the organization and signed up."

Prior to his first annual conference, he reached out to Kurt Gnessin, CRFP, who was with Taco Bell corporate at the time, for 30 minutes of his time. Border Foods had limited interaction with corporate's facility department.

"We talked for two hours, and he shared what his team was doing," Davies said. "He invited me and a coworker to join his team at their meeting after the conference to see how they handle day-to-day issues. It opened up all this information to me, which was a huge difference maker. Now, we are more in line with how corporate does things."

"Brian is a true facility professional in every sense of the word," said Kurt Gnessin, CRFP, Construction Project Manager at Cracker Barrel. "He leads with passion, constantly looking for ways to improve his skills and learn about the best industry practices. Brian seeks out new technologies and information in a variety of forms and shares what he learns with those around him. Brian's humble approach, positive energy and tremendous focus to make his business more effective is contagious, drawing the admiration of many of his peers and fellow franchisees."

Davies shares his story with other potential members.

"If RFMA helped me, I know it can help others, especially the smaller companies," he said. "I talk about what it took to get me to join, and how I wish I had joined when Ric first called me. I would have had access to RFMA sooner and made progress quicker."

This year, Davies was sitting with his teammates during the awards ceremony.

"It was coming to a close, and I was thinking about the show floor," Davies said. "Then, my picture popped up on the screen, and my jaw dropped. There are so many wonderful people in this organization; I never considered myself to be a possible candidate for the award. In my mind, what I've done are small efforts. I thought I was just playing my small part, so to be recognized was very special."

"Brian Davies is one of the hardest-working individuals I know, and he strives for perfection in all that he does," said Zach Zinter, Maintenance Supervisor at Border Foods. "His easy-going demeanor in dealing with tough situations make them seem not so daunting. He is more than understanding and willing to give a helping hand wherever it is needed to get the job done. We have always thought of him as an MVP here at Border Foods, and his receiving this MVP of the Year award at this year's RFMA show just confirms it."

Davies said everyone at Border Foods shares a commitment for excellence.

"Everyone goes above and beyond here, so it's normal on why we're successful," he said. "I don't feel like I'm doing anything extra. I actually thought I should be doing more."

"Brian has been a mentor to me ever since I started here at Border Foods, so it comes as no surprise that he received the MVP award," said Max Corrigan, Facilities Coordinator at Border Foods. "His impact and tireless efforts are seen and felt daily throughout our whole company. He is the kind of person who would drop everything to help you out no matter how big or small the problem is, and I think that just speaks to his character and how great of a person he is. I am so glad that Brian won this award because I don't think anyone deserves this more than him."

What Davies loves most about RFMA is everyone's willingness to share knowledge.

"You typically don't share information with competitors," he said. "We're all vying for the same dollar, but it's the complete opposite with RFMA. Every single person is so willing to share what makes them successful. Everyone's goal is to promote the facilities profession. It's not a competition. Everyone is learning from each other to make their groups great. We're here to network and to help each other with the greater goal of advancing the profession and the field in mind."