The Construction department at BYU consists of six, full-time project managers and one Director. Each individual has different skill sets but all have a common goal: coordinate and complete projects on time, within budget, all while maintaining integrity as they represent the BYU community. Many projects have already been completed or started in 2014. Some of these projects required many months or even years of planning and designing before actual contracts were written and executed. The Monte L. Bean Museum, Life Sciences Building, BYU Nursing Learning Center Remodel, University Guest House, Heritage Housing Phase III and the new University Laundry Building and Auxiliary Services Building were recently completed or are near completion, just to name a few. Many of the duties included in managing the construction process of these projects are: executing the bidding process and writing of contracts, attending weekly construction meetings, coordinating utility outages, coordinating work between the BYU shops and the general contractor, and coordinating the needs of the client (BYU colleges, athletics and other vital services such as campus police). In addition to those duties, a project manager must oversee the processing of all paperwork associated with change orders and monthly pay applications, and ensure all required code inspections are executed and documented. The department collectively has nine state licenses, 24 inspector licenses (disciplines of electrical, plumbing, mechanical, general building, fireproofing, concrete and masonry) and 226 years of experience. Many Hands Make Light Work, is a saying which has application here at the university. It would not be possible to be successful without the cooperative efforts of Planning/Engineering, Construction, BYU Shops and all of the great clients on BYU’s campus.
As I wrote this article in early March I looked out my office window and I found myself wondering, what happened to winter? Then within a few minutes, as if on cue, a mid-morning blizzard unexpectedly arrived out of nowhere. What? I thought. Where did this come from? Then, within a few hours, and nearly as fast as it arrived, the storm was gone. Although I’m sure in most ways BYU’s Grounds and Custodial crews are happy to have no snow to plow, yet I also know they have been waiting since early November to put into effect their new collaborative approach to fighting off the effects of Mother Nature’s winter... only to now experience the driest winter in Utah history. Sometimes I think life follows the same pattern. We work, and plan, and study, and prepare and rehearse for something... then it seemingly never arrives, at least until we give up and turn our attention to something else, and then it surprises us. The end result is the same, however. Even though we don’t always know when things are going to come, if we’re prepared, our efforts will not go to waste. As the Physical Facilities Division moves forward in all our labors, every improvement we make, every effort we put forth, and every concept we discover and then enhance, improves us and improves BYU. And that is “Service with Excellence” in action.