

## OCFO OCIO Connections: Special Supplement

This document supplements the OCIO Awards article in OCFO OCIO Connections #5 (March 12, 2009)

### 2009 OCIO AWARDS: CEREMONY NOTES

On January 12, 2009, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) held its Awards ceremony at the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Chris Smith, Deputy Chief Information Officer (and current Acting CIO) and Charles Christopherson, Jr., former CFO/CIO, presented three types of awards:

**Pii AWARENESS CAMPAIGN POSTER CONTEST AWARDS** – presented to the designers of the winning posters.

**SUMMIT AWARDS** – presented to a group or a person who worked on a significant project or became a champion for a certain project and made significant progress with that project or idea.

**SIGNATURE AWARDS** – presented to a person or group who completed a significant milestone that benefited the agency. The Signature Award is the highest award granted by OCIO.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### Pii Awareness Campaign Poster Contest

The Pii Awareness Campaign Poster Contest drew 91 entries with participation by employees throughout USDA and across the country. Underscoring the importance of Pii awareness to the Department, as well as the country, former Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner joined Charles Christopherson, Jr., and Chris Smith in presenting the Pii Poster Contest Awards:

**The Grand Prize** was awarded to the Nebraska Rural Development (RD) Pii Committee Team: Karissa Berks, Teresa Brohimer, Brenda Darnell, Melba Davison, Angela Drudik, Karen Jones, Cheryl Larson, and Debbie Tiedtke.



Photo: left to right, Chuck Christopherson; Mike McGuire, OCIO/Cyber Security, who accepted the award on behalf of the Nebraska RD Team; and Chuck Connor.

#### 1st Place Winner

Dennis Ware, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Photo: left to right, Chris Smith, Chuck Christopherson, James Wood, who accepted on behalf of Dennis Ware, and Chuck Connor.

#### 2nd Place Winner

Ronald Underwood  
Forest Service (FS).



Photo: left to right, Chris Smith, Chuck Christopherson, Anita Adkins, who accepted on behalf of Ronald Underwood, and Chuck Connor.

#### 3rd Place Winner

Deborah Miller, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).



Photo: left to right, Chris Smith, Chuck Christopherson, Deborah Miller, and Chuck Connor.



#### Honorable Mentions:

Atanu Biswas, Agricultural Research Service (ARS); Rochelle Bouse, NRCS; Mario Chocooj, FS; Cheryl Kauffold, FSA (Angie Heidenreich accepted on her behalf); Daisy Lopez, FSA; Santa Murillo, Farm Service Agency (FSA); Nona Ross, RD; Sherry Rivera, FS; Robert Shondelmyer, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS); and Gretchen Wasper, FSA.

Photo: left to right, Chris Smith, Chuck Christopherson, Angie Heidenreich, who accepted for Cheryl Kauffold, Daisy Lopez, and Chuck Connor.

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## SUMMIT AWARDS

The Summit Awards are divided into three categories: *Outstanding Group Technology Project*, *Outstanding Contribution to eGovernment*, and *Outstanding Contribution to Automating Processes*.

### Outstanding Group Information Technology Project – Three Teams:



Photo: from left to right, Kathy Fallow, Dwayne Cotti, Charles Christopherson, Jr., Sylvia Magbanua, Chris Smith, Joy McDaniel, and Renee Murphy.

***Computer Security Awareness and Privacy Training Team*** – members reviewed, tested and selected the FY 2009 mandatory training for Computer Security Awareness and Privacy Training. They identified lessons learned from FY 2008 training and recommended changes to enhance the FY 2009 training experience; reviewed and tested three Information Systems Security Line of Business (ISS LoB) courses; worked with the Target Center to have the selected training tested for 508 compliance; developed a communication plan for communicating training requirements to all employees; and developed the paper-based training materials, assessments and assessment answers.

The Team, comprised of representatives from various agencies and USDA offices, included: Juanita Makuta, OCIO; Curtis A. Edwards, FS; Dwayne Cotti, Team AgLearn; Kathleen Fallow, Team AgLearn; Seabelle Ball, FSA; Bessy Plaza, FSA; Sylvia Magbanua, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS); Valerie Broome, FSIS; Gary Kohler, RD; Joy McDaniel, ARS; Sherry Casper, NRCS; Michael Sheaver, NRCS; Renee Murphy, FAS; and Eric Penner, FSIS.

### ***Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems***

***(MIDAS) Team*** – MIDAS, the initiative to modernize the farm payment systems, resulted from a united effort of the Farm Service Agency, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. In 2007, the business case for MIDAS was rewritten using a base of commercial off-the-shelf systems, saving over half the implementation cost. It is supported by the USDA Administration and members of Congress. Pending approval of funding, the MIDAS team moved forward, incorporating the principals of Lean Six Sigma to understand the needs of the customer, the field offices, and the business office.

The MIDAS Team included: from OCIO, Patrick Hanley, and from FSA, Stephanie Brown, Kimberly Graham, Torrie Mattes, Tracey Smith, Adrienna Joseph, and Tom Moore.



Photo: from left to right, Patrick Hanley, Chuck Christopherson, Stephanie Brown, Chris Smith, and Kimberly Graham.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Steven Bryce Eckland, Rick Ciampa and Chris Smith.

### ***Cyber Security Assessment and Management System (CSAM)***

***Implementation Team*** – CSAM, a state-of-the-art security tool developed by the Department of Justice (DOJ), was implemented at OCIO/Cyber Security in the summer of 2008. The CSAM team coordinated the transition from the older Automated Security Self-Evaluation and Remediation Tracking Tool (ASSERT®). This broad effort included working with DOJ to map the ASSERT® data to the CSAM Application; creating a working group of representatives from each USDA agency to verify data transition; CSAM training; establishing requirements for agencies to re-categorize each Department system within CSAM using the Federal Information Processing Standards No. 199; and working with DOJ to improve CSAM by providing feedback and suggested improvements for the application.

Team members, from OCIO Cyber Security, included: Steven Bryce Eckland, Karen Sifford, and Rick Ciampa.

## Outstanding Contribution to eGovernment – Three Teams:

### *Whole Disk Encryption (WDE) Team –*



Photo: from left to right, Sabrina Williams, Chuck Christopherson, Nancy Ward, Ron Gendreau, Chris Smith, Sherry Rodgers, and Scott Finke.

The USDA Whole Disk Encryption project is providing encryption for computing devices for approximately 180,000 users, with up to five end-point devices each to be encrypted (including laptop and desktop computers, and mobile devices with processing capabilities). The team worked relentlessly to:

- Establish a single encryption software standard across all USDA, and
- Fulfill the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 06-16 of June 23, 2006, Protection of Sensitive Agency Information, recommending agencies “encrypt all data on mobile computers/devices.”

The team is comprised of representatives from various agencies and OCIO offices:

*OCIO/NITC* - Sherry Rodgers, Nancy Ward, Mike Nickel, Mike Lading, Sabrina Williams, Purnie Johnson Fisher, Chad Bixby;

*OCIO/ITS* - Brian Walker, Keith Richardson, Michael Manning, Bryan Dixon, Barry Hodge and Dean Lindstrom;

*OCIO/ITM* - Owen Unangst;

*Agriculture Research Service* - Scott Finke;

*Agriculture Marketing Service* - Steve Cyrier and Christopher Rhodes;

*Foreign Agriculture Service* - John Green; and

*Forest Service* - Ron Gendreau.

### *HSPD-12 Implementation Team –*

The HSPD-12 Implementation Team led the effort at USDA to certify and issue federal employees and contractors secure and reliable forms of identification cards (IDs). The IDs permit access to federally-controlled facilities and networks in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12) requirements. The team’s efforts have made USDA the leading Department in certifications.

The team included: Owen Unangst, Delia Downer, and Peter Cox. (No photo; Larry Brooks accepted on their behalf).

### *The ITS HSPD-12 Enrollment Team –*

The ITS HSPD-12 Enrollment Team was recognized for its key role in the ultimate success of USDA’s HSPD-12 enrollment effort that enrolled 58,000 employees for LincPass cards by the end of September, even though USDA employees are in some of the most remote and rural places in America. When a GSA contractor could not perform that critical task, Mr. Brooks, Director, ITS/Technical Support Division (TSD), engaged the Division, which is already in place across the U. S. and its territories, to set up HSPD-12 registration stations in remote locations. Thanks to Mr. Brooks and his team, USDA will remain on course with credentialing USDA as well as Department of the Interior and Treasury employees.

Larry Brooks accepted the award on behalf of all the OCIO/Technical Support Division staff members who supported this effort.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Larry Brooks, and Chris Smith.

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## Outstanding Contribution to Automating Processes – Two Teams:

### *Lean Six Sigma Transaction Processing (LSTP) Team, Phase 1*

The LSTP Team completed implementation of Phase 1 of the Lean Six Sigma Transaction Processing (LSTP) project in 2008. LSTP is the beginning of USDA's effort to automate and integrate transactions with electronic workflow and electronic approvals. Simply put, invoices will be approved and staged for payment using USDA's consolidated email system. This first phase has documented savings of several million dollars and electronically processes invoices. Agencies can also view the invoices and the payment process on-line.



Photo: from left to right, front row, Wendall Oaks, Mike McGuire, Tah Yang, and Wade Edwards; back row, Chuck Christopherson, Mark Weaver, Philip Stetson, Jason Restad, and Chris Smith.

The Team included:

*Forest Service* – Tiffany Taylor, Tah Yang, and Mark Weaver;

*Controller Operations Division, National Finance Center (OCFO)* – Peggy Javery, Wade Edwards, Mark Androff, and Jane Cosse; and

*Rural Development* – Tom Morris, Mike Keller, Brian Barton, Helena Smith, Toni Carter, Sam Waters, and Jen Gilbert.

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### *Lean Six Sigma Grants Desktop and Processing (LSGP) Team, Phase 1*



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Sue Preece, Wendell Oaks, John Vrana, Tony Puga, and Chris Smith.

LSGP Phase 1 continues the consolidation of diverse USDA grants processing tools from 13 to a single Department-wide solution. Last year, the team received an OCFO Summit Award for documenting the LSGP process; the 2009 OCIO Summit Award recognizes further advances in piloting Phase 1. Since NRCS customers apply for grants to improve their land and resource use, the team has combined the grants process and Geospatial Information into a Customer Relationship Management System. This provides Forest Service and NRCS field officers with an electronic file for all customer information. The business office is now starting electronic routing and approval.

The LSGP Team included:

*Forest Service* – Sue Preece, Team Leader

*Natural Resources Conservation Service* – Jack Carlson (retired), Wendall Oaks, Jason Restad, Kathy Green, Ken Harward (retired), Jon Vrana, David Butler, Tony Puga and Terry Schmid.

## THE SIGNATURE AWARD

The Signature Award was presented in five categories: *Outstanding Employee Contribution*; *Outstanding Management Contribution*; *Outstanding Government Employee*; *Outstanding Group Information Technology Project*; and *Outstanding Contribution to eGovernment*.

### Outstanding Employee Contribution – Five Individuals:

**Dana Miller** serves as the National Finance Center (NFC) lead for all Security Portfolio related efforts and has also functioned as the lead for A-123, SAS-70 and NFC assessment of National Institute of Standards and Technology 800-53 controls.



Photo: left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Dana Miller, and Chris Smith.

Dana is recognized for her accomplishments in a complex and dynamic environment of changing policies and procedures. Ms. Miller was able to develop a structured security management program, complete with all the checks and balances, that fosters the highest of NFC security standards. She reviewed all of NFC's security processes, identifying efficiencies where they had not existed, and then streamlined the processes by eliminating duplication of effort. Dana met all the challenging deadlines, while also training her team on the various new regulations and required tool-sets.

This award recognizes **Gregory Scott's** work as a senior Database Administrator for major Oracle database systems and leading several key projects in support of the National Finance Center and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.



Photo: left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Gregory Scott, and Chris Smith.

Greg's exceptional leadership and performance in FY 2008 assisted NFC in achieving several key organizational goals. In addition to his dedicated efforts in day-to-day operations and maintenance of a vast array of complex Oracle databases, he tirelessly led two major projects: improving remote database administration for Oracle applications and databases, and ensuring Federal Desktop Core Configuration compliance for the United States Department of Agriculture's Corporate Property Automated Information System.

**Bryan Dixon** is recognized for his exemplary work supporting the day-to-day operational, technical, and managerial activities of the OCIO/Washington Communications and Technology Services/Customer Support Branch. Bryan's grasp of messaging concepts, security management, telecommunications, and voice services has been instrumental in reframing IT services in WCTS and resulted in significant service improvements and cost efficiencies in: WCTS' customer service delivery and program management; deployment of the Federal Desktop Core Configuration; migration of the Office of the Secretary to MS 2003; and migration of the OCFO and Office of the Executive Secretariat to WCTS. Bryan also acted as the Director of WCTS for several months and performed his duties in an exceptional manner. (No photo).

**Joe Meade, Forest Service**, is recognized for changing the way that USDA views 508 compliance and accessibility issues as extremely important. At the end of FY 2008, Joe came to the Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Assistant Secretary of Administration with an SES project to support better systems at USDA for disabled employees. Joe showed OCIO, Administration, and OCFO that simple changes can better support disabled employees and make systems friendlier for all USDA. Because of Joe's influence, the USDA travel system is being rebuilt by the vendor, and new accessible solutions are being reviewed and tested prior to implementation. We thank him for his dedication; he has truly changed the way that USDA 508 systems will be designed. (No photo, John King accepted the award for Joe Meade).



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Clif Gonzales, and Chris Smith.

**Clif Gonzales** is recognized for efforts beyond the call of duty. In addition to his normal work, Clif Gonzales assisted USDA in writing procurements for a number of security tools. In order to meet the timelines, Clif worked extended hours and conducted extensive research. These products included hard disk encryption, end point security, network access control, and penetration testing. Not only did Clif write these difficult procurements, but he also advised the procurement office on the price that USDA was willing to pay to the final vendor. Through Clif's actions each of these products was purchased at the lowest price in the nation, saving USDA millions of dollars.

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## Outstanding Management Contribution – Three Individuals:



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Clay Cole, and Chris Smith.

**Clay Cole** is recognized for his work modernizing the National Information Technology Center's (NITC) data storage technology. Clay is the Supervisory Information Specialist for the USDA OCIO Storage Management Branch in Kansas City, Missouri, responsible for enterprise solutions for customers' storage requirements. During 2008, Mr. Cole spearheaded NITC's storage strategy to replace the older storage technology. NITC replaced the existing mainframe and open system Storage Area Network Silo complex with a single Silo capable of managing both platforms. Mr. Cole implemented a state-of-the-art mainframe Virtual Tape Library (VTL)/Automated Tape solution, open systems VTL/Automated Tape solution, and introduced a long-term storage utility model acquisition strategy. Mr. Cole successfully completed the requirements definition, contract award, acquisition, and implementation of the state-of-the-art mainframe Virtual Tape Library. He has also completed the requirements definition, and contract award for the open systems VTL.

**Greg Montgomery** was recognized for his steady helmsmanship steering International Technology Services (ITS) through a complex year. He assumed the role as the Deputy Associate Chief Information Officer for OCIO/ITS in FY 2008. Greg was savvy to the problems and criticisms that ITS received from its customer base and initiated a couple major initiatives to benchmark services and complete a cost matrix and chargeback system.

Greg's leadership and guidance, positive attitude, and even temper has successfully led the organization through numerous IT initiatives, multiple leadership departures and changes (both internal to OCIO and with our customers), and other crises, while continuing to manage the day-to-day operations of a \$300Million+, 50,000+ customer based organization.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Greg Montgomery, and Chris Smith.

**Vaughn Stokes** is recognized for his proactive leadership as the Chief Information Officer of the United States Forest Service. Upon assuming his responsibilities as the CIO, Vaughn found an entity that struggled with meeting the organizational and security requirements of a government IT organization. Vaughn took the challenge and started a multi-year remediation program. In FY 2008,

the independent auditors reported the improvement of the FS IT organization by no longer reporting a material weakness. Vaughn understands how agencies can capitalize from Department-wide initiatives and supports LSGP, LSTP, and Enterprise Data Centers, the Geospatial Center of Excellence. (No photo, John King accepted for Vaughn).

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## Outstanding Government Employee –



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Vic Cserer, and Chris Smith.

**Victor Cserer** was recognized for his service as the ITS Project Lead - Rural Development Unified Communication Project. Vic was responsible for insuring all tasks and assignments were completed and communications were maintained throughout the project. He and his team accomplished a wide-variety of complex tasks. They worked at an exceptional level, often going above and beyond the call of duty. Vic's contribution made a positive impact on the effectiveness and efficient use of IT video and voice throughout Rural Development and the Department. With the implementation of Unified Communication, Rural Development and the Department can enhance user productivity, reduce travel costs, and reduce the Agency's carbon foot print.

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## Outstanding Group Information Technology Project – Two Teams:

### *ARSnet Team*



Photo: from left to right, front row, Chris Smith, Terri Johnson, Douglas Page, Dr. Melinda McClanahan, Chuck Christopherson, and Andy Lieberman; back row, Linda Timmons, Anthony Johnson, Ken Ammar, Rob Butler, Bob Fletcher, and Scott Finke.

The ARSnet Team was recognized for implementing a huge technological advance for ARS and, as a consequence, strengthening the technological stature of USDA. In 2008, ARSnet, the Agricultural Research Service's new IT network system, was completed and deployed. This four-year Agency-wide initiative, led by the ARS CIO and implemented by the ARS OCIO staff, overcame numerous technological, financial, and cultural obstacles and exceeded the organizational goals set by the ARS Administrator. ARSnet has transformed business operations across the Agency, advanced the research mission, and strongly fortified the security posture of the USDA, thereby enhancing IT within the Federal Government. The positive impact of ARSnet on the ARS business and research communities and their collaborators is a near revolution in Agency IT support.

The *ARSnet Team* included: Dr. Melinda L. McClanahan, Douglas Page, Andy Liberman, Ken Ammar, Bob Fletcher, Scott Finke, Linda Timmons, Rob Butler, Anthony Johnson, Terri Johnson, Tom Houston, and Michael Lee.

### *Goodfellow Migration Team*

The Goodfellow Migration Team's extraordinary logistical achievement resulted in successfully moving approximately 1,200 staff and 70+ mission critical business applications of Rural Development and OCIO from their existing locations at two downtown St. Louis office buildings to their new destination at the Goodfellow campus.

The team's efforts and dedication ensured its timely completion, without an hour of service disruption. The 12 phase move included more than 25 trucks of enterprise hardware along with staff. Throughout the project, the team provided exceptional service and extremely high quality work. They exhibited an untiring commitment and consistently juggled the project demands with their ongoing daily operational responsibilities and numerous other enterprise projects. Their creativity and commitment guaranteed a successful delivery for RD and the customer agencies with minimal costs and downtime.

The *Goodfellow Migration Team* members, from across ITS, included: Aaron Baalman, Kristine Byrne, Mathew Cuthbert, Gary Davis, Debbie Sanders, Jeff Dublo, Chuck Fisher, Bill Giertz, Bob Grizzoffi, Thomas Hiette, Diane Kamm, Kathy Kaznel, Chris Kendrick, Innocent Lau, Mary Jo Loberg, Gary Mareschal, John Pretti, Dave Purcel, Cameron Pursley, Tom Rudnick, Ron Schmidt, Kelly Stelmach, and Linda Thus.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Kelly Stelmach, Charles Kendrick, and Chris Smith.

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## Outstanding Contribution to eGovernment

**Shirley Hall, FSA**, is recognized for her work leading the government-wide committee on the architecture for Imagery for the Nation (IFTN). IFTN was designed to reduce the duplication and provide a wider array of geospatial information to the Federal Government and other entities. As the largest non-secure aerial operation in the United States, USDA is indebted to her service.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Shirley Hall, and Chris Smith.

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## Outstanding Contribution in Support of Mission Area Goals with Information Technology

### Two Awards:

#### *Green Information Technology Plan Team*



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Jessica Bortolini, Audrey Marks, Kimberly Graham, Kent Taylor, and Chris Smith.

This award recognizes the Team's completion of the Green IT Plan. In late FY 2007 when Mr. Christopherson became Chief Information Officer, he learned that USDA did not have a Green Information Technology Plan. Since USDA is one of the three Departments that support the President's energy initiatives, this plan required certain perfection.

The USDA Green IT Plan was released in February 2009. The 100 page document provides an outline for USDA to reduce carbon emissions by USDA operations, vendors, and customers through the proper use of information technology. It includes success measures, metrics, and examples of sustainable techniques and technologies that any public or private organization can utilize in establishing its own environmental improvement program. Each year, the plan projects a reduction in over 100 tons of carbon emissions.

The *Green Information Technology Plan* Team included: Kimberly Graham, Juanda Rogers, Kent Taylor, Audrey Marks, and Jessica Bortolini.

#### *Holly Stack, ITS/WCTS*

Holly Stack is recognized for her role improving services and cost-effectiveness at WCTS. She serves as the Branch Chief for the Telecommunications Customer Service Center (TCSC) at OCIO/WCTS, supporting voice and cellular services for the D.C. Metropolitan area. Holly has provided exceptional support and service to the TCSC Branch through her leadership and dedication to WCTS and its customers.

Her innovative program efforts and the implementation of cost savings initiatives have greatly improved service delivery, reduced cost and expenses for our customers across the Department, improved the performance of her team and customer base, and are instrumental in WCTS' ability to exceed program missions and goals.



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Holly Stack, and Chris Smith.

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## Outstanding Project Manager

#### *Charles Kendrick, OCIO/ITS/Infrastructure Definition Division*



Photo: from left to right, Chuck Christopherson, Charles Kendrick, and Chris Smith.

Following up on the award for the Goodfellow Migration Team, *this* award recognizes Chris Kendrick's leadership role in that process. He served as the Contracting Officer Technical Representative for the World Wide Technology contract overseeing the purchase of infrastructure items and the cable/fiber installation of the campus while also coordinating with the ITS Migration Team and their contract vendors, his Anadarko staff, and GSA partners and vendors to ensure the timely completion of these efforts. His creativity and commitment guaranteed a successful delivery for RD and the customer agencies with minimal costs and downtime.