



CEO EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Employee Recognition Program (ERP) Committee hosted an awards reception on Wednesday, October 29. William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, presented commendation certificates to employees nominated in three award categories: Service Excellence, Workforce Excellence and Exceptional Teamwork.

The CEO announced the award winners at the department meeting. Each nominee was evaluated on developing new ways of doing business that benefit customers as well as advancing department or countywide initiatives through leadership. All nominees typify the highest standards of the CEO and contribute significantly to the Department's mission and goals.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners!

Nominees – Service Excellence

Vincent Amerson – Operations Cluster/Special Projects and Strategic Planning



Vincent Amerson is a consummate professional who oversees contracting policy assignments such as the Contractor Hearing Board and Debarments, Retroactive Contract Review Committee, Off-Peak Delivery of Commodities Policy and Delegated Authority Agreements. Vincent expertly addresses challenges, thoroughly researching relevant issues and gathering information from knowledgeable entities, before making a reasoned and insightful recommendation to management for resolving the issues. An example of his service excellence includes quickly convening solicitation protect panels based on urgent requests from DCEOs and departments. He is a confident, persuasive and sensitive individual who is exceedingly effective and admired.

Nominee – Service Excellence



Karen Herberts – Children and Families Well-Being/Service Integration Branch – Special Initiatives

Karen Herberts personifies professionalism and a can-do attitude while providing exceptional service to the 211 Information and Referral contract. The 211 program provides critical and often sensitive services to tens of thousands of

callers. Her strong interpersonal skills allow her to work seamlessly with Board offices, departments and contractors. Karen's competent management of the marketing campaign for 211 enabled her to distill various stakeholder viewpoints and facilitate a consensus on identifying a logo, tag line, unincorporated campaign target locations, outreach and implementation plan. Karen Herberts is admired and respected by County partners both public and private.

Nominee – Workforce Excellence

Jeanne O'Donnell – Public Safety Cluster/ Office of Emergency Management



Jeanne O'Donnell's distinguishes herself as a first-rate employee, deeply committed to serving the public. She quickly took over the OEM Grants Section including the Federal Grant Funding project totaling \$18.0 million. With little grant management experience, Ms. O'Donnell worked with the State Office of Homeland Security to modify existing grants among 44 sub-recipients, 24 projects requiring complex extension requests, and 30 other projects needing cost – benefit analysis and formal authorizations from the State. Jeanne worked with city emergency coordinators developing grant narratives and milestones. Her actions prevented the loss of millions of dollars of grant funds from County sub-recipients and enhanced Southern California's ability to manage and recover from disasters.

Nominees – Exceptional Teamwork

CEO Graphic Arts – Intergovernmental Relations

Loren Clapp, Coordinator

Dennell D'Ambrosio, Theresa Argonza, Judi Siskind, Marci Donley, Carole Johnson, Jeff Redford, Janeen Marrin, Mercedes Ward, Jesse Ayala



Graphic Arts is a unique team. Quality is crucial and each one prides themselves on producing the very best product. More than 19,500 scrolls and certificates are

produced each year along with hundreds of time-sensitive graphic jobs. The team works with departments, board deputies and secretaries, all of whom have different and even opposing opinions of art. If critique arises from an outside source, all members support that artist, offering suggestions on how to improve that design. There is no competition. Everyone’s style of art is respected, and each learns from one another. Many take workshops and share in new learned styles. When a rush job comes in, no one shies away. Each one says, “I can do it.”

Health Services Strike Team – Operations Cluster/Risk Management

John Sterritt, Risk Management Inspector General
 Cheryl Turkal, Occupational Health Programs
 Kathy Regan, Risk Management Operations



The Strike Team provided quality assistance to the Department of Health Services (DHS) at a time when DHS was under a lot of scrutiny. The team conducted a comprehensive review of DHS within their area of expertise. John Sterritt focused on risk management. Cheryl Turkal provided assistance with return-to-

work issues, including training of DHS staff. Kathy Regan reviewed contracting operations. Their recommendations will greatly enhance the efficiency of operations and minimize problems within DHS.

MULTIMEDIA/AUDIO OPERATIONS – CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Kenneth “Mark” Cox
 Anthony “Tony” Wycoff



Almost every County employee has benefited from the technological expertise, outstanding infrastructure work, and positive attitude of that

dynamic duo, Mark Cox and Tony Wycoff. They are the “wizards behind the curtain.” Tony and Mark are the ones who take command over the County’s sophisticated audio-video equipment, systems and networks – integrating it all into a literal and figurative “mix” to deliver the Board meetings live over the Internet, the County Intranet, or our in-house cable Channel. They demonstrate extraordinary initiative by solving problems and tackling challenges frequently dealing with last minute assignments and technical difficulties with skill and speed. They perform complex analyses, seek cost-efficiencies, budget resources to effectively meet County needs and of course, listen to Board members, department heads, and staff regarding their needs.

AND THE AWARDS GO TO --

SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Vincent Amerson (Operations Cluster – Special Projects and Strategic Planning) receiving the *Service Excellence Award* from William T Fujioka

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE



Jeanne O'Donnell (Public Safety Cluster - Office of Emergency Management) receiving the *Workforce Excellence Award* from William T Fujioka.

EXCEPTIONAL TEAMWORK



MULTIMEDIA/AUDIO OPERATIONS – CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Kenneth “Mark” Cox (not pictured)
Anthony “Tony” Wycoff

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, honored four nominees for *Employee of the Year* at the department meeting on Thursday, December 11. Recognized for their commitment to high quality work, these individuals also serve as mentors and role models, and make significant contributions to the growth and well-being of all employees. Nominees are:

Vincent Amerson – Operations Cluster: Special Projects/Strategic Planning

Dr. Timothy Gust – Operations Cluster: Risk Management Branch

Kathy House – Children and Families Cluster: Service Integration Branch

Jeanne O’Donnell – Public Safety Cluster: Office of Emergency Management

AND THE AWARD GOES TO -

Recognized for her management of an \$18.0 million Federal Grant, **Jeanne O’Donnell** is Employee of the Year for 2008. Jeanne took on the additional workload of the Grant Program and performed well above the call of duty. She displays a commitment to quality and dedication to her work and the people she serves. Jeanne established an excellent rapport and cooperative relationship with State Representatives from the Offices of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. She was instrumental in setting up the new countywide Disaster Service Worker Program and worked closely in collaborating with nongovernmental organizations. Jeanne has a long-term relationship with the Emergency Network of Los Angeles Board and understands the importance of those relationships in enhancing readiness for the County.



Employee Recognition Program
Instant Recognition – Shining STAR

Shining Star is an employee instant recognition program that gives CEO employees the opportunity to be acknowledged for a job well done with a simple thank you from their peers. Visit http://ceo.lacounty.gov/erp/ir_ss.htm for more information.

