



Release

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STATE EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS *Florida TaxWatch Honors Those Who Save Taxpayers Money*

Gainesville — Florida TaxWatch recognized state employees from the Gainesville area for their innovative and cost-saving ideas. Twenty-one winners were presented, individually and in teams, with awards at the **Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards Luncheon** on **Tuesday, June 9 (11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)** in **Gainesville at the Best Western Gateway Grand, 4200 NW 97th Boulevard**.

The Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards program is a major government improvement initiative chaired by Lt. Governor Kottkamp, administered by Florida TaxWatch, and sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100, and the State of Florida. Now celebrating its 21th Anniversary, the program recognizes and rewards (with cash awards of \$250 to \$2,750 plus commemorative plaques and certificates of commendation) state employees who clearly exceed their job descriptions and performance expectations in ways that improve service delivery and save money for Florida taxpayers.

“For 21 years, this award has recognized the importance of rewarding and replicating the cost saving innovations generated throughout Florida by state employees like you,” said the Lt. Governor speaking on the Prudential Davis Productivity Awards program. “On behalf of Governor Crist and the 19 million people who call Florida home, thank you for the exceptional work you do to improve the quality of life we all enjoy and for your dedication to our great state.”

The 2009 competition awarded 559 individual and team winners statewide for their innovations and productivity improvements worth \$342 million in cost savings, cost avoidances, and increased revenue for state government. The program saves even more money by working with agencies and government officials to replicate the cost-savings measures recognized and rewarded during the annual competition.

“It is important that cost-saving innovations generated by devoted state workers are recognized, rewarded, and replicated throughout Florida,” said David A. Smith, Chairman, CEO and President, PSS World Medical and Chairman of Florida TaxWatch. “In this way, we can assure the citizens of our great state that their government is operating as efficiently as possible in providing the high-quality services they deserve, at the lowest possible cost.”

“Now more than ever, it is necessary that the state government deliver services more efficiently and effectively; each of these award winners is a model of how we can improve government together,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch.

“These individuals bring honor to themselves and to state government”, said Florida House of Representatives Speaker Larry Cretul of the achievements of the award winners. “Their accomplishments in generating efficiencies, productivity, and savings set an example for us all. They deserve our recognition and reward for jobs well done.”

Some winners from Central Florida who are being honored at today’s luncheon include:

**Saved Highway Construction Cost Utilizing Coal Ash Waste
EZ-Base Earthwork Stabilization Team, Department of Transportation, Lake City
Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)**

This 21-member team reduced the cost of highway construction by performing research and testing to determine if the coal-ash-limerock by-product from a local coal fired power plant could substitute for conventional limerock as a stabilizing material in roadway subgrade. This first-in-Florida achievement, which supports the Governor’s “Going Green” initiative and can be used on future projects, resulted from a coordinated effort of three divisions within the Department of Transportation (Construction, State Materials Office, District Materials Office), the Department of Environmental Regulation, and a contractor. Approval, based on assurance that a smaller amount of the lighter weight coal-ash-limerock by-product would perform as well or better than conventional limerock, required more than 600 hours of testing using new and varied procedures. Added value: \$557,236. Award Code: DOT-75

**Reduced Diagnostic Time Required for Citrus Greening Samples
Department of Agriculture, Gainesville
Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)**

This nine-member group developed and implemented a procedure to identify citrus greening via visual examination of symptoms, saving more than \$100,000 over two years by processing more than 3,000 via samples via visual identification in addition to more than 4,000 via the more costly and time-consuming Polymerase Chain Reaction diagnostic protocol. These savings will continue as more samples come to the laboratory due to the rapid spread of the fatal citrus greening disease throughout Florida. Award Code:DACS-64

**Improved Procedures at Wastewater Treatment Plant
Walter Wakefield, Vocational Instructor, Mayo Correctional Institution, Mayo
Notable Individual Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)**

Walter Wakefield created and implemented procedures that enhance the institution’s quality of drinking water, reduce the amount of ground water used for sewage treatment, and reduce the cost of processing and chemical requirements by using processed re-use water. As a certified instructor, he implemented a training program to prepare inmates for a state certification exam that qualify them to replace contractual lab tests, lift station cleanings, and sludge hauling services. Four inmates passed the exam and obtained jobs in the public sector upon release. Estimated added value: \$37,300. Award Code: DOC-26

**Developed & Provided No-Additional Cost EDMS Training Across Business Areas
Deborah Shaw, Records Technician, Department of Transportation, Lake City
Notable Individual Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)**

Debbie Shaw is perhaps the biggest proponent for the Enterprise Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) in the department. Working with offices across business areas to insure that mandated procedures and processes are followed correctly, she provides training and oversight using EDMS as an archive tool. Debbie is an invaluable resource to the EDMS team testing new releases of the OpenText product prior to general release, providing concise test results and feedback to new product offerings as they relate to the way the district offices use the EDMS tool. She is also an excellent resource for department staff in problem identification. Estimated added value: \$62,000. Award Code: DOT-18

Of the 34 awards given to 214 state employees from the Jacksonville area, 21 awards were represented to 72 state employees at the luncheon. All Gainesville area award winning achievements, and those of many other extraordinary state workers from around Florida, are detailed in the **2009 Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards Magazine**, distributed at the luncheon and available at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org/dpa. The attached file lists all 21 awards that were presented at the luncheon.

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with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.