



Wisconsin **Employee Suggestion Program**

Office of State Employment Relations
Karen E. Timberlake, Director

Employee Suggestion Board
Sandy Drew, Chair
Gene Dalhoff, Member
David Vriezen, Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- November 9, 2006

Madison, WI – Office of State Employment Relations Director Karen E. Timberlake announces that four state employees are being honored by the State Employee Suggestion Board for their efforts in improving efficiencies and reducing costs in state government in fiscal year 2006. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will receive special recognition for its active participation in the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program.

A ceremony honoring the recipients will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 9 in the Governor's Conference Room in the State Capitol. Karen Timberlake and members of the State Employee Suggestion Board will give remarks and congratulate the winners.

The award winners are:

- ***Individual Suggester of the Year 2006:***

TONY JOHNSON (Department of Veterans Affairs) is being recognized for creating a design concept, assembly and completion of casket carriers for Northern and Southern Veterans Cemeteries. The completed casket carriers fulfilled the Cemetery Director expectations, and are functional and visually acceptable. The work requirements included a metal enclosure to accommodate moving a casket, permanently attached to the frame of a utility vehicle, to rotate a minimum of 90 degrees with inside rollers and a roll-up rear door. After assembly was completed, painting and graphics were completed by an outside vendor so the casket carrier would represent the cemetery and ensure the dignity and respect that moving a veteran's casket would require. Net Cost Savings: Total, \$33,853. Average Annual Savings: \$6,770.

- ***Group Suggestion of the Year 2006:***

TRACI BREWER and KATHLEEN KOCH (Department of Natural Resources) are being recognized for updating DNR's computer inventory prior to reviewing licensing agreement. This revealed 569 computers that were no longer being used by the agency. Cost Savings: \$359,289 for one year. Average Annual Savings: \$71,858.

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- ***Agency Coordinator of the Year 2006:***

KEVIN HUGGINS (Department of Natural Resources) is being recognized for his outstanding work as agency coordinator. Kevin worked diligently to revive DNR's participation in the state employee suggestion program and his efforts yielded great success.

- ***Agency of the Year 2006:***

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Secretary Scott Hassett)

The Department of Natural Resources is being honored as Agency of the Year for 2006, for its active participation in the Employee Suggestion Program and for the innovative ideas submitted by DNR employees.

The Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program encourages state employees to become agents for change, initiating ideas on ways to improve services, enhance efficiency and saving money for the state. This program is designed not only to stimulate suggestions, but also to recognize employees for their contributions.

For further information, contact OSER Director Karen Timberlake, (PHONE) or (E-MAIL), or OSER Executive Assistant Yer Vang (PHONE) or (E-MAIL).

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