



Wisconsin **Employee Suggestion Program**

Office of State Employment Relations
Jennifer Donnelly, Director

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Employees Recognized for Suggestions

Madison, WI – Office of State Employment Relations Director Jennifer Donnelly announced yesterday that seven state employees were honored by the State Employee Suggestion Board for their efforts in improving efficiencies and reducing costs in state government for fiscal year 2008. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation received special recognition for its active participation in the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program.

A ceremony honoring the recipients was on Thursday, November 13 in the Senate Parlor in the State Capitol. Jennifer Donnelly and members of the State Employee Suggestion Board gave remarks and congratulated the winners. The award winners are:

- ***Suggestion of the Year 2008:***
STEVEN KREBS, JANIE PFLAUM, SALLY ANDREWS, and FRANK HILSCHER (Department of Transportation) are being recognized for suggesting conversion to a 3-month billing cycle for the 500 highway construction plans and specifications CDs mailed each month to the contracting industry. In addition to cost savings, their suggestion also resulted in process improvements. Using an existing database to automatically generate the invoices eliminated the need to collate and sort thousands of pieces of paper to track orders.
- ***Group Suggestion of the Year 2008:***
WENDY PINK and BRIAN SCHROEDER (Department of Employee Trust Funds) are being recognized for combining two health insurance forms (application and change) into a single application/change form, to be printed as 1-ply. The new single form can be used by employees to either apply for health insurance coverage or make personal or coverage changes. Approximately 85,000 copies of this form are printed each year. In addition to cost savings, the new form is more efficient to complete and process.
- ***Agency Coordinator of the Year 2008:***

JOAN MEIER (Department of Transportation) is being recognized for her outstanding work as agency coordinator and liaison to the state employee suggestion program.

- ***Agency of the Year 2008:***

The **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** (Secretary Frank Busalacchi) is being honored as Agency of the Year for 2008, for its continuing active participation in the Employee Suggestion Program and for the innovative ideas submitted by DOT employees. DOT has won this award at least 17 times in the past 32 years.

The Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program encourages state employees to become agents for change, initiating ideas 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 the statewide program coordinator, Robert Toomey, at the Office of State Employment Relations, by telephone (608) 266-0664, or e-mail Robert.Toomey@Wisconsin.gov.

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