

The graphic features a large blue star in the center with the text "STAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS" inside it. Surrounding this central star are several smaller stars in gold and brown. The background is white with a light blue diagonal stripe. The text "2020 PENNDOT" is in the top right corner.

2020 PENNDOT

STAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Each year PennDOT recognizes select employees for their outstanding performance with the Star of Excellence Award, the agency's highest honor.

These recipients represent a variety of organizational positions, spanning from highway maintenance and driver and vehicle services workers, to traffic control specialists, communications staff, and design and engineering specialists.

This year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were honored during an online ceremony. This summary includes your colleagues who were recognized and a brief description of why they received the award.

The page is framed by a light beige border. Several gold stars of various sizes are scattered around the page. A large, solid gold star is positioned at the top left, partially overlapping the central text box. Other smaller gold stars are located at the top right, middle left, middle right, bottom left, and bottom right. The central text is enclosed in a white box with a thin blue border.

OUR VISION

A better quality of life built on transportation excellence.

OUR MISSION

To provide a sustainable transportation system and quality services that are embraced by our communities and add value to our customers.

VALUES

PennDOT operates under a basic set of values.

Safety — We promote the delivery of a safe work environment and a safe transportation system in our products and services.

Modernization — We consistently evaluate our processes and procedures to encourage innovation and remain competitive.

Customer Service — We are committed to providing the highest level of public service and value to our customers.

Communication — We are committed to effective communication with our customers, employees, and the legislature.

Workforce Development — We value and respect one another while promoting teamwork and workforce development.



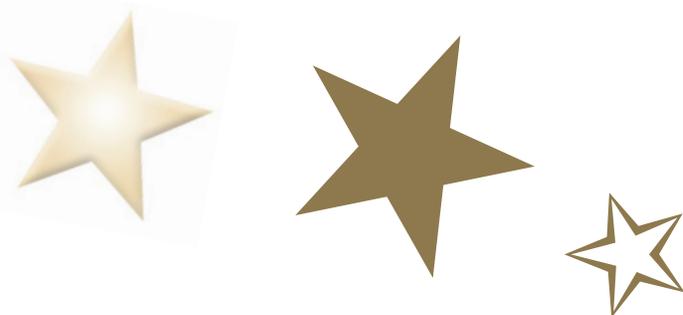
For most of us, this year has been unlike any other, however, we need to look forward and celebrate our successes. That included showing appreciation for our stellar team members – this year’s Stars.

Their leadership and example will be even more important moving forward. This pandemic has brought us some challenges, but I am convinced we will move forward even stronger than before. I’m so proud that even though the circumstances that we’ve all been living under for the last several months have been challenging, we’ve been able to make some positive changes for the organization.

I’ve always been proud of how PennDOT makes innovation a priority. Looking at the dedication and achievements of each Star makes me so grateful. I’m not only grateful to be part of this organization, but also to be a Pennsylvanian served by these amazing team members. Their creativity and their service are shining examples to the thousands of people in the PennDOT family.

We are continually looking at our organization and business practices to make sure we are serving our team and the public equitably and fairly; you and our customers deserve no less.

Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation



District Office



Jonathan J. Richardson *Survey Tech Supervisor • District 1*



Jon has been instrumental in the evaluation and implementation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems drone technology at the district and state levels. As part of the process, he learned to use drone images to create 3D model surfaces to be used in CADD as well as collected above what was previously possible.

Jon ensures the accuracy of data and that other PennDOT employees can utilize the program as needed. He produced training recommendations, presentations, and a best practices document for using the drone and software.

Jon's efforts will save the Department time and money as we move toward increased use of this new technology. For just one District 1 project, there was \$1,500 savings per flight, or approximately a 70 percent reduction versus consultant costs.

There are efficiency and safety improvements from Jon's work as well. Employees are not exposed to traffic while conducting field survey work; work zone and multi-plane-transit setups are minimal or not needed; and employees are able to perform various duties with minimal disruption and impact to motorists. The estimated annual savings is \$20,000.

Jon is respected by his peers, who have previously awarded him with Competitive Enterprise and Supervisor of the Year honors.



Chad Tarr *Transportation Construction 2 • District 1*



Chad handled some of the district's most notable rural projects in recent years – the Hunter Station Bridge and the Big I Roundabout. He ensures construction work is completed in compliance with Department specifications, no matter the size of the project.

He fosters partnerships during the construction process, regularly visiting businesses, local officials, and police departments to gather feedback and share information, such as handouts.

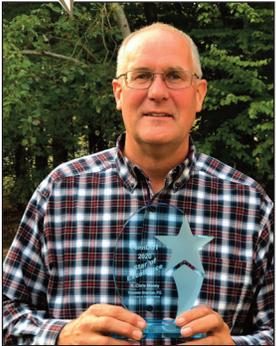
During his time managing construction of the region's first multi-lane roundabout, Chad was featured in video updates posted on the project website and participated in other community outreach efforts, including a Veterans Day flag raising.

As part of the Hunter Station Bridge replacement project, Chad worked with the contractor to develop a traffic control plan, replacing the 45-mile detour with temporary signals and saving motorists an estimated \$404,378.

Throughout his time at PennDOT, he has mentored many less experienced employees and is proactive in recognizing good work of others. He is dedicated to the District's training efforts and has served as the chairman for the Winter Construction Conference. Chad's colleagues have recognized his strong work ethic over the years, awarding him several honors including the John "Jack" Baker Award, Supervisor of the Year, Work Zone Person of the Year, and Construction Inspector-in-Charge of the Year.



R. Chris Maney *Senior Hwy Maintenance Manager (Now retired) • District 2*



Chris was asked to pilot a consolidation between Clinton and Centre counties--two of the larger counties in District 2. Evaluation of operational needs and modernization efforts led to several changes in the workforce. Changes included consolidation of the RPC and Clerical Supervisor positions and having the Centre County Accounting Assistant support Clinton County's purchasing operations. Additionally, Mechanic Supervisors support both counties by utilizing excess garage capacity in one county to support the existing workload in the other. Chris also recommended a change in management structure so one of the five Assistant Highway Maintenance Manager positions was reclassified to a Highway Maintenance Coordinator which allowed each county to maintain two assistants to manage winter services while the HMC was available to develop the Sectional Cycle Maintenance Plans. As a result of his forward-thinking, the consolidations are estimated to save \$307,750 and an estimated salary and benefits savings of \$155,280 annually.



Jodi L. Schultz *Clerk/Typist 3 • District 2*



While serving as the Clerk/Typist 3 for the Posted and Bonded Roads Unit, Jodi assumed the additional duties of the Administrative Assistant to the District Executive (DE). She manages scheduling, correspondence, and day-to-day activities for the DE as well as serving as the district's Right-to-Know (RTK) Coordinator, Health and Wellness Coordinator, and Customer Care Coordinator. Jodi excels in preparing professional correspondence and is diligent in making sure the district's RTK requests are assigned to the proper staff and that responses are provided in a timely manner. Jodi organizes the district's blood drives and sets up Lunch 'N Learn Wellness sessions while maintaining a very active Posted and Bonded Roads billing portfolio. She provides exemplary customer service, remains calm in challenging situations, and regularly displays patience through trying circumstances. Jodi has been serving in this dual role for more than three years, providing the district with a total saving of over \$200,000.

District Office



Aaron B. Crist *Local Project Coordinator • District 3*



Aaron Crist is the district's Local Project Coordinator and assists local municipalities and sponsors with the department's Reimbursement Agreement and Engineering and Construction Management systems to facilitate project delivery, ensure they are aware of all requirements and strives to achieve the PennDOT Connects goals for project development.

He is responsible for coordinating all local projects within District 3. This includes: Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE), Green Light Go (GLG), Transportation Enhancements (TE), Act 89 Multimodal, and bridge funded projects which includes retroactive as well as department managed.

Aaron was instrumental in coordinating project limits and funding for the City of Sunbury's ARLE traffic light grants and PennDOT resurfacing project to be sure all work was done only once and there were no funds or efforts wasted by having to tear out work that had just been completed by another.

Aaron has worked with numerous local sponsors to allow use of the district open end agreements for design and inspection. The sponsor agrees to allow the district to manage the project on their behalf saving valuable time and effort keeping projects moving by not needing to get approvals at the local level.

His helpful attitude and commitment to deliver local projects is clear progress in the department's vision.



Kimberly A. Smith *Administrative Officer 1/ District Safety Press Officer • District 3*



As the district's Safety Press Officer she is responsible for promoting traffic safety initiatives designed to educate the public about issues. She has an extremely positive attitude, is energetic, creative and resourceful in promoting roadway safety, and frequently requires her to work extra hours beyond normal working times. Due to a vacancy, she was called upon to serve as the district's Community Relations Coordinator, this added to her workload and required her to be available during emergency and severe weather events to receive and provide important information to the public. After the CRC position was filled, she provided training for the newly-hired CRC. She has a team-player attitude, positive nature, and commitment to the Department and public safety that makes her an important asset to PennDOT and a valuable member of the PennDOT team. She has received the Highway Safety Award, Star of Excellence Honoree, "Most Creative Campaign" – Press Office Award, District 3 Employee of the Month, Tioga County Partnership for Community Health "Distinguished Volunteer 2018", "Best Stressed" – Press Office Award, and Highway Safety project of the Year Award. She frequently works extra hours beyond normal working hours to provide public outreach to support highway safety efforts. She manages the District's Driver Safety Task Force and serves as back-up Community Relations Coordinator.



Susan Williams *Senior Civil Eng. Sup./Asst. Liaison Manager • District 4*



The experience Susan holds resulted in cost savings on numerous accounts. First, Susan's management and coordination expedited design delivery saved the Department approximately \$14,000, by not having to go to a consultant project manager. Secondly, Susan's aggressive project management assured the project bid at a timeframe that allowed construction to occur in appropriate field conditions, again assuring the travelling public was accommodated and the construction did not go beyond the summer season, nor into the school bus season. Her efforts saved the department construction costs for extended construction and winter shutdowns, while also assuring the school and emergency services did not endure additional expenses. This can add additional costs ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Susan is a well-respected member of our team and we look forward to her continued success.



Leo Charney *Civil Engineer Manager Bridge • District 4*



Leo has 35 years of design and construction experience with the department. Leo's position as a Structural Control Engineer is a highly specialized position that takes a tremendous amount of education and field experience. Because of his thoroughness, designers, contractors and the traveling public are provided with a high level of confidence knowing that safety is his utmost priority when reviewing structural submissions.

In 2019, District 4 had \$589M in active construction projects; with 79 projects having multiple structural submissions that needed to be reviewed. Leo reviewed 163 different submissions which included demolition plans, temporary shoring, piles, caissons, pouring sequences, overhang jacks, temporary bridge loadings, and heat straightening of steel beams. District 4 can accomplish this work with one person because of Leo's experience and efficiency. Leo is well-respected by contractors and consultants. We are pleased to have Leo as a member of our team and look forward to his continued success.

District Office



Jose Lopez-Rocha *Roadway Programs Technician 1 • District 5*



Jose began at District 5 in April 2017. After starting as a Civil Engineer Trainee, he worked as a Civil Engineer in Traffic Operations before moving to his current position as the District TMC Operations Supervisor, overseeing the District TMC and Paint Crew.

Jose has had numerous accomplishments. He took on the role of being the lead employee for work zone traffic control. He showed safety at all levels by promoting safety through work zone traffic control and in helping to train county personnel regarding Pub 213.

He routinely looks for ways to save costs through the district paint program and ITS maintenance contract. He applied for and was awarded match funding to pursue Transportation Systems Management and Operations projects, which allowed the district to maximize the impact of spending.

One of these projects will involve installation of remote power switches at ITS devices. This allows them to remotely reset ITS devices rather than sending an employee or our maintenance contractor to reset the device. This saves hours of driving, time, and money for resetting the device. The contractor would normally cost \$300, while the reset switch costs around \$200 per site, with an annual savings anticipated to be approximately \$30,000.

He also saved the district \$46,000 through early ordering of paint before an increase in contract prices.



Patricia Pados *Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor • District 5*



Patricia started with Northampton County PennDOT on July 2015 as a Clerk Typist 1 in the garage.

She was a quick learner and found areas where the garage could work more efficient and effectively. She improved WEX fueling instructions, tool sign out sheets, timecard instruction for mechanics, and spare key acknowledgment forms. As her knowledge and experience grew, she was promoted to Roadway Programs Technician 1 in June 2018.

When she took the promotion, the Clerk Typist and Chief Clerk duties came with her, eliminating the Chief Clerk position saving the county \$40,000 annually.

She is involved with building a safety culture for Northampton County employees by being the Safety Glass Coordinator, as such she identified ways to track and streamline processes to achieve improved results.

She also took on the job of becoming the SECA Coordinator for the county. For the Fall Safety Day, she developed fun and creative fundraising activities that increased employee participation and Northampton County was one of the top earning counties in the district for the SECA campaign.

She continually looks to develop new skills and take on additional responsibilities and she is a great asset to the county. She does an excellent job balancing her time between multiple priorities, even with the large workload she still gets her job done accurately and timely.



Eric Lawrence *Maintenance Repairman 2 • District 6*



Eric Lawrence is a Maintenance Repairman 2 and an integral member of the Montgomery County maintenance team. Lawrence's work experience within the paving industry is beneficial to PennDOT's overall success but it's his dedication to safety that has helped ensure the sustainability of the paving program. As an effective mentor, Lawrence imparts his extensive paving knowledge on the Transportation Equipment Operators and thoughtfully provides instruction on the resurfacing process. He consistently stresses the need to be proactive to avoid potential hazards that could affect the well-being of his team and emphasizes to his co-workers the value of knowing the complete details for each piece of equipment. Under his direction, there is no evidence of an accident or violation with any member of his bridge crew or operators conducting snow removal operations. His ability to address bridge damage is a critical component used by the District Bridge Unit to determine the scope of the projects that he and his crew can handle. Through his hard work, he has become one of the county's most influential and respected employees. Lawrence continues to accomplish the most critical maintenance operations and works successfully with other state agencies, local municipalities, area legislators and their constituents.



Hilary J. Fink *Roadside Specialist 1 • District 6*



Hilary Fink as a Roadside Specialist 1 is an enthusiastic worker and invaluable asset to the department. Fink attained Certified Arborist certification to help her assist in all tree-related matters across the district and has been instrumental in keeping the roadside unit aligned with the overall goals of productivity, efficient planning, and cost savings. She has taken the lead in driving a continuous improvement effort by helping to develop methods used to track certain aspects of the roadside unit including contract usage and tree inventory. Specifically, utilizing Maintenance IQ and Geosnap technologies, she helped compile tree inventory on Roosevelt Boulevard. The collected data helped target Ash Trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and any other dead species for removal which will result in a cost savings of nearly \$100,000. Fink is also often praised for her professional nature. During a recent encounter with high employee turnover in the county roadside positions, Fink continued to perform the duties of the Roadside Technician while performing all her primary job responsibilities, essentially performing the dual role for over a year. She continues to be an exemplary employee striving to move the department forward.

District Office



Jennifer Leibig *Transportation Construction Manager 2 • District 8*



Efficient, knowledgeable, dependable, safety-minded – those are just a few of Jennifer Leibig's outstanding qualities. Jennifer manages construction projects in Lancaster County, but her value to the department goes well beyond the projects she so effectively oversees. She is a teacher, mentor and communicator, willing to share her knowledge, encourage others, and foster relationships. She is active in the District 8 Winter School and served on the Committee for the ECMS Source of Supply and Certification process. She teaches others how to calibrate latex trucks, which is a specialized skill generally overseen by the Structure Control Unit. Her knowledge of the process saves the department money by not requiring the Structure Control Unit to be on site for calibrations at her projects. A role model for female employees, Jennifer encourages her entire staff to thrive and grow, regardless of gender. Property owners respect her because she responds quickly to questions and issues about her projects. She works well with contractors and consultants. She is available 24/7 to respond to issues that occur on her projects. For example, when flooding damaged a section of roadway at a construction project Jennifer was managing, she cancelled personal plans to help organize the needed repairs.



Daniel L. Storm *Senior Highway Maintenance Manager (Now retired) • District 8*



Nothing could be more fitting than Dan Storm receiving the 2020 Star of Excellence. The award is the icing on the cake of a stellar career that ended this past September 11 when Dan retired as Cumberland County Senior Highway Maintenance Manager. Dan joined the department in 1985 as an equipment operator, and progressed to Mechanic, Equipment Manager, Assistant Maintenance Manager, and finally, Maintenance Manager. He earned a mountain of respect for being honest and straightforward, and for possessing the qualities of a top-notch manager: leadership, dedication, the ability to listen and communicate, and expert knowledge of the field of highway maintenance. Dan believed for a job to be done right, it had to be done safely. Dan took his responsibility for maintaining Cumberland County's state roads seriously, giving 110 percent to ensure those roads were in the best possible condition for the people who lived and worked there. He was out in every winter storm, driving hundreds of miles monitoring conditions and making sure his staff was performing at the highest level. He took satisfaction in providing employees with the training and encouragement they needed to advance, knowing full well that might mean losing an excellent worker.



Bonnie Emigh *Roadway Program Coordinator • District 9*



Bonnie is the Cambria County Roadway Programs Coordinator. In 2019, she added Acting Assistant County Manager to her role and brought outstanding leadership and built a culture of productivity. Bonnie's ability to be efficient, create effective partnerships through detailed coordination of vendors, foremen, crews and public partners, and build regular communication channels among these groups, created opportunities for her team to learn, grow and accomplish more every day; setting up future success for the county. She is highly regarded by colleagues as a supervisor. She's quickly earned their respect by treating them with integrity, while giving them constructive feedback. Whether by becoming the county's go-to person for IT issues or by asking to manage the County Sign Crew, she demonstrated hands-on leadership. Her initiative saved IT staff countless hours, production time for crews to keep working, and improved control of sign inventory. As a young woman who's spent most of her career in an office setting, Bonnie stepped into a field role, supervising a primarily male workforce that was older than she and created a diverse work environment. Her new perspective showed how workforce diversity helps PennDOT flourish with a new, innovative approach to how we've always done business.



Dustin W. Ohler, P.E. *Sr. Civil Engineer Supervisor (Bridges) • District 9*



Dustin is a Bridge Design Squad Leader whose colleagues in the Bridge Unit describe as dependable, competent, exemplary and a team player. In 2019, he demonstrated those qualities, taking on two important, local bridge rehabilitation projects with tight deadlines, on top of his already established workload of state bridge projects. The Coleridge Avenue project in Altoona and the Cambria County Local Non-Composite Adjacent Beam project were under strict time constraints due to funding availability. As design progressed, unexpected let date changes further tightened deadlines. Dustin worked with local owners to maximize funds applied to actual construction improvements by reducing pre-construction design costs and not using consultants, which resulted in the significant extension of service life to bridges that serve those local communities. Additionally, he volunteers on the district's Design Quality Improvement team and helps evaluate Bentley's OpenBridge Designer (OBD) software package; an integral part of the Department's "Digital Delivery Directive 2025" initiative. He has modeled several sample bridge replacement projects to document OBD strengths and weaknesses, which Bentley uses in program fixes and enhancements. Dustin chose to learn advanced CAD and GIS techniques, happily sharing that knowledge with other members of the bridge unit.

District Office



Raymond L. Suhadolnik *Geologic Specialist • District 10*



Ray is a dedicated employee with a strong work ethic who manages his workload efficiently and professionally. As the district's only geologist, he is a major player in every slope stability concern. Ray is typically the first geotechnical representative to visit a landslide and works with the Maintenance Unit to determine if the road can remain open.

During construction season, Ray visits projects to provide guidance on undercuts in soft subgrade and compaction issues along with technical assistance with foundation construction. His positive attitude and flexibility are greatly appreciated by his supervisor, coworkers, and field inspectors. Ray is well-respected and field staff look to him regularly for advice. He makes sure that the crew understands the safety and stability issues associated with excavating soft soils, so they can be aware of unstable areas and position equipment accordingly.

Ray has joined the Incident Command Center (ICC) team. He also oversees the district's open-end drilling contract and the subsurface exploration for in-house and consultant-designed projects. His expertise in landslide repair and his willingness to assist the counties allows a great deal of repair work to be accomplished by maintenance crews instead of letting projects through a construction contract.



Tricia McElhaney *Clerk Typist III • District 10*



Tricia has developed job aids and guides for our 1st Level Supervisors to aid them with payroll. This includes: a refresher on how to charge overtime and shift differential; how to code winter materials on your payroll; equalization sheets for winter and summer; original ePayroll Mobile power point; a list of all the commonly used materials and their SAP material numbers; lists of winter and summer standing work orders; a guide for all payroll charge codes and explanation; and lists of winter and summer equipment assigned to each crew. These tools have reduced the numbers of mistakes on the payrolls. Tricia also conducts payroll training for new and acting 1st Level Supervisors. She was nominated for a Quarterly Award in the first and fourth quarters this year. She was nominated not only for all that she does concerning highway payrolls but also because she has filled in while our Personnel Clerk was off. She accepted the additional work and never complained. She stepped right in and continued the entire hiring process for full-time and seasonal positions.



Scott Kovach *Roadway Program Coordinator • District 11*



Allegheny County Roadway Program Coordinator, Scott Kovach, is known for his attention to detail, communication skills, and his ability to collaborate with multiple maintenance employees, surrounding counties and district office staff. His work in developing detailed cycle maintenance schedules, including piloting new schedule software with the Office of Performance and Operations, led to a significant cost savings for the department. By embracing the advanced concepts for increasing production of core maintenance activities, Scott help lead the county to an estimated \$68,000 in savings for seal coat operations and an increase of over 130 miles of shoulder cutting in 2019. Additionally, Scott acted in the Assistant County Maintenance Manager role while continuing to guide Allegheny County's cycle maintenance program which included an innovative process to track major operations on a state route level. Scott is well-liked and respected in both the district and statewide levels and is always willing to pitch-in to help better Allegheny County.



Stephanie D. Zolnak, P.E. *Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor • District 11*



Stephanie's reputation of being a reliable "go to" person who is passionate about her work, stems from her ability to relay knowledgeable and thorough information to colleagues, contractors, and stakeholders alike. She is prone to thinking "out of the box", including in 2019 when she suggested using portable barrier on projects to provide protection for workers during off peak traffic times, then quickly reopening travel lanes to accommodate rush hour. Once her idea is fully implemented, it is expected to make the technology more affordable and accessible for future projects statewide. Also, in 2019 she piloted a rough draft of a new flagger training module related to relocating flaggers during mobile flagging operations. She presented this material to the district's maintenance crews and provided feedback as a web-based training module was created to be implemented state-wide in late 2020. Through all of this, Stephanie continued to thrive while short staffed during the height of construction season, leading her to efficiently delegate the remaining workload, resulting in the department saving \$103,000 in costs to hire a temporary consultant to fill the vacancy.

District Office



Douglas Wise *Highway Forman 2 • District 12*



In his position as a Highway Forman 2, Doug leads by example. He never misses a call out and often fills in for others who are not available. He ensures every task assigned is done completely and professionally and is always looking for ways to become more efficient in all he does. His dedication, dependability and loyalty to the county, district, and Department serve as an example for his peers.

At the end of each summer season, he purchases out of his own pocket, gift cards and presents them to his college interns to help as they return to school. This characteristic continues into his professional relationships with the employees on his crews. He serves as a mentor to younger employees who he helps mold into quality employees like himself.

To ensure the safety of his crew Doug will call the QA Evaluator to come and review his traffic control setups to ensure they are correct always looking for opportunities to improve. He takes the initiative to increase efficiency and continually looks to cut costs, improve productivity, and safety. His work is done correctly, completely, and timely on all assigned tasks.



Ryan Medvitz, P.E. *District Maintenance Manager • District 12*



Ryan began his career as a civil engineer in the Traffic Unit. He progressed through the maintenance unit to Bridge Maintenance Coordinator, working with the Bridge Unit and the Department Force Bridge crews to deliver 12 bridges/year. Ryan developed a 10-year Department Force Bridge program saving an average of \$250,000/bridge. The completion of 36 structures played a key role to reach 10% poor bridges district-wide.

Ryan's next developed a process to review, design, and obtain permits to repair damaged storage buildings with Department forces. He oversaw the construction of 30 structures to quickly reopen these critical buildings at a reduced cost. The process has been recognized statewide as a best management practice.

Slides are a major problem in District 12, which led Ryan to develop a slide severity index to catalog, prioritize, and document every landslide within the district.

Ryan also provided oversight of a recent Longwall Mining Operation under Interstate 70. During his oversight, I-70 was never closed longer than 15 minutes while mitigating the impacts of a five-foot settlement of the Interstate.

Ryan's cost saving efforts amount to \$1.5 million yearly.

In June of 2017, he was rewarded for his hard work by obtaining his Professional Engineer's license.



Central Office



Wayne Mears *Deputy Communications Director*



Wayne's daily efforts support the communications, partnership, innovation/diversity, and safety themes. He brings up new, out-of-the-box ways to achieve a goal or communicate with an audience. He was instrumental to the creation of the Department's Workers' memorial housed in the Keystone Building Atrium, which won the Display category of the 2019 AASHTO TransComm Subcommittee awards. He works with Human Resources to brand our department's recruitment materials. He revised radio ads and scripts, submitted by districts, so they would emphasize career paths at PennDOT. He helped our diversity initiatives by using a library of photos in our publications, to reflect all of our employees. He ensures that our publications and images meet the latest safety standards and are reviewed for accuracy. He helped to coordinate the initial development of Workplace Hero and remains the point of contact for the program. Serving as a coordinator between business areas and the department's designer/printers, he helps translate complex department language to what should go out publicly and how it should be designed. He is unofficially known as our "brand-compliance" expert – he works to ensure all Department materials conform to the established PennDOT style guide during the design process, which helps reduce the number of proofs needed. Thanks to Wayne, many products are back in-house that used to be paid to consultants.



Tammy Tedesco *Administrative Officer 4 • Administration*



Tammy was instrumental in working with District 12 and Department of General Services to acquire temporary office and garage space for county staff when the district's Greene County Maintenance facility was destroyed in a fire last May. She also managed the reporting process for tracking the losses for insurance recovery. She worked on the financial aspects with DGS and Fiscal Management to enable emergency procurements to be funded including the new replacement facility. She continues as the Project Manager for the implementation of the Keystone Building improvement project. She worked with DGS on a new preventive maintenance program when bugs were found in isolated areas of the Keystone Building. She coordinated with IT onboarding the new PCs in the building. She understands the importance of training and mentoring her relatively new staff. She served as one of the co-chairs for the SECA Campaign and over \$440,000 was raised. She is an excellent steward of commonwealth funds and worked with management team on validating needs while ensuring coding is correct, encumbrances are closed timely to free up funds, and that purchasing card rebates are transferred timely to the field/bureaus. Her efforts with bringing new meeting room space (equipped with IT needs) has resulted in improved efficiencies for all organizations who need to schedule and use meeting space.



Misty Rotigel *Program Analyst 5 • Highway Administration*



Through discussions with leadership in Highway Admin, Misty heard a reoccurring concern for an operational need to redefine service delivery for many business functions. She created a better quality of life for the employees by improving overall communications, providing innovative thinking, and LEAN processes, which enabled managers to spend more time focusing on their operation. Because of the lack of candidates for Equipment Operators she came up with the idea to advertise PennDOT employment opportunities on the Department trucks. She created a reference guide document with the goal of providing a one stop shop for all HR-related requests, streamline HR-related work processes, and reduced wait time for all HR actions. She is leading an effort to develop a training specific to navigating the application and interview process to support the succession planning and career development initiatives. She is recognized for her prompt customer service. Her job knowledge created an estimated \$600,000 savings by identifying the number of end users for a tablet/computer device that was exchanged a \$0 cost to the Department. This reduced the number of electronic devices owned by the Department that employees need to carry, and Assistant County Managers can now create SAP notifications remotely that will automatically upload. It was during the PC Refresh that she discovered another vendor could provide a laptop that converts to a tablet and could be used for this new mobile .application. Savings: \$600,000



Ryan McNary *Traffic Control Specialist Manager • Highway Administration*

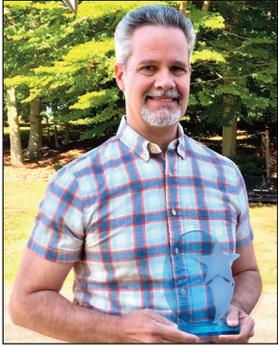


Ryan came to the TMC Operations Unit and was asked to improve the unit. He reviewed policies and established new ones for the Statewide Traffic Management Center (STMC) to support Area Command Operations. He managed the Systems and Performance Unit simultaneously. He improved communications with the Regional Traffic Management Centers (RTMCs) and the center by providing transparent protocols, ensured all employees had relevant assignments, and addressed morale issues. He worked with OA IT Delivery Center to develop a "Traffic Alerts" application that utilizes 3rd party data from INRIX and WAZE to provide an early identification tool for the TMC to utilize. That information when utilized by Regional TMCs has led to significant improvements in the accuracy, latency, and timeliness of getting events verified and resulted in quicker notification to the public. He is a national leader with the development of traffic operations performance metrics which has been presented by the Secretary at ITS World Congress, I-95 Corridor Coalition meetings, and at AASHTO Committee on Transportation System Operations. Ryan developed the first Pennsylvania specific congestion breakdown and his "Congestion Pie Chart" is the first of its kind nationally. His leadership saved the Department in overall cost savings by not hiring a consultant engineer to run the entire TMC Operations Unit until the section could be re-established. His work with the STMC has created easy to understand documents that can be utilized by the RTMC. Savings: \$250,000.

Central Office



Robert Hample *Transportation Planning Specialist 1 • Planning*



Bob supports district and county GIS personnel with their work and is the face of the bureau with remote GIS users. His communications by phone, in writing, and via e-mail concerning operations, data, and procedures, lead to solutions among the distributed GIS user base. He schedules, develops, and leads training classes at remote locations for district and county personnel new to GIS. He re-wrote the training manual to be consistent with a new desktop software version. He serves many Central Office bureaus with ad-hoc, short turn-around GIS and posts requests without falling behind. He is considered a work leader among the staff and regularly helps mentor junior staff, which enables them to become productive sooner. He is a primary desktop software tester and consultant. His efforts to troubleshoot, determine workflows, and resolve complications makes software upgrades and transitions easier. He regularly monitors legislator changes for actions that require his edits to maps and data. He consistently serves as the main contact for external special project requests, i.e. maps and graphics for presentations. He is primary contact for BOS, Facilities Management, District and County GIS Operators, Maintenance and Operations - Winter Maintenance, traffic operations, and safety. He is the secondary contact for Map Sales. His technical support of remote and Central Office GIS users saves many man-hours over the course of a year.



Susan Heimberger *Executive Assistant • Multimodal*



Susan is responsible for managing special assignments to advance the goals of the Multimodal Deputate. She plays a critical role in administering the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant program. She worked with Amtrak on Keystone Service Marketing and maintains the Plan the Keystone and Access the Keystone websites. She is the go-to-person for any legislative briefings and was integral in assisting with the transportation funding work that was required during the Turnpike Lawsuit. She developed several high-level documents for showcasing Deputate accomplishments and values to Pennsylvania Citizens. Without her experience and expertise, the distribution of these funds would not have been done as efficiently as they are now. She has exemplified the LEAN approach. Her exceptional skill set and knowledge of economic development in both large and small communities means that the MTF program can be administered entirely in-house. Complex grant programs require outside consultant's assistance to successfully administer the program, but she has delivered the skills necessary to avoid the costly approach. Exceptional management of communication projects, including the Plan the Keystone and Access the Keystone websites, means costs are kept to a minimum with a carefully crafted messaging plan and content curation.



Sarah Baker *REAL ID Program Manager • Driver and Vehicle Services*



As REAL ID Program Manager, Sarah has a hand in all things REAL ID, ensuring compliance with the REAL ID Act of 2005 and the PA Vehicle Code with regards to the manufacturing and distribution of REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards, establishing policies and procedures to maintain internal security, and working directly with the Department of Homeland Security to make certain Pennsylvania is meeting all REAL ID requirements. Sarah managed all aspects of bringing Pennsylvania into compliance with requirements to institute REAL ID in Pennsylvania, including: managing the construction of five new Driver License Centers and the retrofit of seven current locations across the Commonwealth to meet REAL ID requirements; organized all aspects of the program's inception from building design, interpretation of the REAL ID act to ensure compliance with all phases of development, and coordination of all actions taken to meet federal requirements for REAL ID; and assisting with planning the IT infrastructure to support the new locations and new operations. She performed her role flawlessly and with exceptional results. The seamless deployment to date has resulted in an overall positive experience for our customers.



