



Welcome to our annual celebration of PennDOT's best of the best. Today's honorees were selected from many worthy candidates who work hard day in and day out to keep people and Pennsylvania's economy moving.

We all know what we're up against: extreme weather, limited resources, and the public's expectation that we deliver despite these challenges. Every day, I am reminded of your dedication, your customer service, and in many cases, your sacrifices.

The accomplishments of our Stars of Excellence exemplify PennDOT's mission to provide the very best transportation services to Pennsylvanians every day.

Thank you for your dedication to public service, and for all the work each of you have done that has led to this achievement. You serve as an example to your colleagues and you help PennDOT deliver on its mission to improve mobility and quality of life in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Leslie S. Richards". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Leslie S. Richards
Secretary of Transportation

Message from Leslie S. Richards



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.



District 2

Victoria E. Rusnak, E.I.T.
David R. Karp

District 4



Charles J. DeFebo
Michael J. Nesgoda, Jr.

District 6

Vincent J. Cerbone
Marilyn R. Musiowski


District 8

Douglas E. Knoll, P.E.
Mazher A. Malik

District 10

Kevin D. Pollino
Layne K. Norris

District 12



John "Jay" M. Ofsanik
Gary V. Ferrari

Multimodal Transportation

Keith Doersom

Highway Administration

Garth D. Bridenbaugh, P.E.
Richard E. Heineman



Administration

Erica B. Dutton
Stephanie J. Shoemaker

Planning

Jessica L. Clark

Driver & Vehicle Services

Rayna Lemelle

Press Office



Jillian L. Harry

District 1

Jennifer L. Nulph
David M. Demyanovich

District 3

Crista L. Dailey
Jennifer A. Reed

District 5



David G. Viola, Jr.
Todd F. Stehle

District 9

Zachary R. Ickes
Kelli H. Scalia

District 11

John B. Myler
Joseph W. Kurnot, P.E.

2019 STAR Recipients



Victoria E. Rusnak, E.I.T.

Transportation Planning Manager

Victoria Rusnak, has played a vital role in implementing District 2's PennDOT Connects Program.

She has proactively worked with municipalities, legislators, constituents, and planning partners to maximize Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding resources and review regional transportation concerns while maintaining budget requirements.

To date, Victoria and her staff have coordinated more than 225 projects including the SR 3002 /T-307 surface improvement project in Elk County, where She secured \$1.4 million of Eastern Federal Lands Access Funds. She also worked with municipalities to acquire an addition \$1.2 million in multimodal funds to improve state and local roads. The overall impact of Victoria's efforts is invaluable.



District 2

District Office



David R. Karp

Transportation Construction Manager 2

Over the years, Dave Karp has overseen inspection duties for many of the District's most complex projects, while remaining focused on completing them as efficiently as possible.

On his recent, \$23 million I-80 project Dave's job knowledge and focus were pivotal in identifying a need to adjust the milled material usage and improving management of the structure rehabilitation within the project limits.

Dave's approach led to a savings of more than \$400,000 and will lessen the need for future maintenance operations. On the I-80 project, Dave's experience enabled him to complete the work on time while also adding repairs and paving to two critical bridge decks at Exit 161.

This past year, Dave was also nominated to receive the Most Valued Performer Award by his fellow employees in the Regional Traffic Management Center. His professionalism is exemplary in the district and the agency.



District 2





Charles J. DeFebo

Assistant Highway Maintenance Manager

As the Pike County Business Manager, Charles DeFebo has been able to provide excellent customer service while providing significant cost savings to the department. By focused control over the delivery of materials he was able to eliminate Saturday salt deliveries, saving hours of unnecessary overtime.

By discussing various strategies with assistant managers prior to winter events, he has been able to employ the most efficient and effective strategies based upon the most recent forecast. He reviews what materials are required for each weather event and is then able to begin the resupplying process prior to the storm.

Charles has also made customer service a top priority. By training office personnel, including seasonal radio operators, he helps to ensure quality customer service for the customers served by PennDOT. He is a conscientious and dedicated employee who shows that customer service never has to be sacrificed for cost savings.

District 4



Michael J. Nesgoda, Jr.

Building Services Supervisor

As PennDOT Engineering District 4 undergoes a two-year phased renovation of the district office, Michael Nesgoda has served as the primary contact between PennDOT, DGS and a variety of contractors. His oversight has allowed employees to remain in the building during the construction of a new 8,000 square-

foot addition and the renovation of the existing 54,000 square-foot building.

From organizing environmental testing to informing district personnel of changing parking and traffic patterns, Michael has maintained a proactive approach with open communication. In addition to his regular duties as the Building Services Supervisor, Michael has worked with his staff to move office furniture throughout the move, thereby reducing the cost of hiring a mover.

His new initiative of implementing a “Did You Know” display in the entryway foyer has helped promote safety initiatives and holiday messages. Michael is the epitome of an efficient employee and an asset to the Department.

District 4

District Office



Vincent J. Cerbone

Traffic Control Specialist Manager



Vincent Cerbone is a Traffic Control Specialist Manager effectively leading District 6's multi-million dollar Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Vincent's utilization of modern technologies and his responsiveness to constituent concerns has helped the district become more efficient in its operations.

For example, he routinely collaborates with District 6 Maintenance to implement safety improvements at the time of resurfacing so that taxpayers can benefit for the entire length of the pavement cycle. This enhanced efficiency stems from his use of GIS mapping that has helped save the department an estimated \$25,000 yearly.

When you think about the increased safety that is being provided to motorists, with District 6 fatalities down an average of six annually, it makes the value of Vincent's service to traffic management priceless.

Vincent also mentors his team members closely and in doing so has provided a positive and motivating work atmosphere.

District 6

Marilyn R. Musiowski

Clerk Typist 2



Marilyn Musiowski is an invaluable resource to the department, specifically with the administration of Bucks County's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program. Her commitment to cultivating Bucks County's AAH groups and her attention to detail has helped reduce District 6 litter removal expenditures and provided a tremendous service to Pennsylvania citizens in the process.

For example, Marilyn does meticulous research when recommending AAH cleanup locations and strategizes with PennDOT Maintenance forces to prioritize the state highways that need the most attention. Her coordination efforts with the 253 volunteer groups, covering more than 530 miles of highway have provided the department with an annual cost savings of \$107,352 on average.

Marilyn has worked diligently to grow the Adopt-A-Highway Program and recruit more AAH groups for District 6 through thoughtful and effective presentations delivered to employees, legislators and other meaningful contacts made at statewide training events and symposiums.

District 6



Douglas E. Knoll, P.E.

District Bridge Engineer

Doug Knoll is a dedicated employee who is always available, ensuring that the more than 3,400 bridges in District 8 are safe, but also to provide leadership for corrective measures should a bridge concern be identified.

As the district bridge engineer, Doug engaged in a collaborative effort to help District 8 reduce its poor deck area from 5.82% in 2016 to 5.09% in 2018, helping to ensure the Governor's goal of reducing the overall number of poor-condition bridges is reduced.

Under Doug Knoll's leadership, the District exceeded the goals of reducing structurally deficient (poor bridges) by both number and by deck area.

Last year, the region dealt with significant flooding, bridge hits, and structural concerns surrounding several major river crossings, including significant flooding within Hershey Park. Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company expressed gratitude for PennDOT's assistance effort in opening various state roadways that are gateways into their facilities.



District 8



Mazher A. Malik

District Permit Manager

Mazhar Malik's commitment to customer service is exhibited in his exceptional response time. Internal employees and external partners recognize his efforts to keep the Highway Occupancy Permit process moving along successfully.

He's typically one of the first employees to arrive in the morning and responds quickly to questions/concerns, while also elevating potential issues to the district's executive staff, giving them necessary details to address concerns.

When issuing a permit, close coordination with municipal representatives and planning commissions is needed. Mazhar takes the time to ensure everyone is on the same page and are satisfied that their concerns have been addressed.

To maintain published review times, this process often requires him to conduct a significant amount of coordination and encouragement with staff beyond his chain of command. Such work is done in a courteous and professional manner.



District Office



District Office

Kevin D. Pollino

Right-of-Way Administrator

As the Right of Way Administrator, Kevin Pollino works closely with his staff, District staff, Department attorneys, and property owners, with the end result of exceeding internal and external customer service expectations. His staff is committed and knowledgeable, and Kevin ensures their training is current to maintain their required licenses and certifications. By engaging with all involved early in the process, Kevin balances the needs of the Department while protecting the rights of property owners, ultimately saving the Department hundreds of thousands of dollars by ensuring accurate appraisals and claim settlements, and by avoiding court costs and construction delays.

Kevin is a valuable resource, a reliable manager, and a dependable employee whose strong work ethic provides a quality example for others to follow.



District 10



Layne K. Norris

Stock Clerk 2

Being promoted to Stock Clerk 2 didn't stop Layne Norris from successfully learning her new position while, for six months, maintaining the operational needs of her previous position; in fact, she continued to identify areas that could be more efficient, formulate new standards to support improvements, and implement sustainable plans that increased efficiency and decreased costs. Layne developed spreadsheets to track inventories for plow blades, cutting edges, tires, spreader parts, fleet stock items, apparel, and personal protection equipment. The spreadsheets create a visual and tangible tool that has resulted in just-in-time ordering of non-inventoried items, a more organized workplace, cost savings, and a more efficient use of time. Layne trained Butler County personnel, and implementation of the tracking spreadsheets has been replicated at District 10's other four counties.



District 10





John "Jay" M. Ofsanik

Safety Press Officer

Jay Ofsanik works hard to spread PennDOT's safety messages by promoting highway safety initiatives through the media and other creative mediums. His objective is always to lower vehicle crashes and fatalities on our roadways. One example of his creativity is the creation of the Speed Minder Program. He utilizes 14 speed minders that he strategically places along the roadways to alert motorists to the speed they are driving. He then works with the local police to enforce speed limits to slow down drivers and save lives. He has also acted as a mentor to new Safety Press Officers in neighboring districts and has worked to assist District 10 in their traffic safety since 2013 helping to conduct education and enforcement events. His safety accomplishments and dedication to promoting the importance of saving lives have been highlighted in editions of the District 12 Progress Report. .

District 12



Gary V. Ferrari

Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor

Gary Ferrari is a Project Manager within the District 12's Design Unit. In 2018, he managed some of the more complex and aggressive projects, many of which are related to the Governor's bridge goals and is the main point of contact for the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Rapid Bridge Replacement (RBR) project. His commitment to PennDOT Connects was apparent for the Ohio Pyle Project which provided safety and sustainable transportation infrastructure related to pedestrian accommodations and rehabilitation of an existing bridge. His partnerships and coordination were exemplary in public meetings with local businesses, property owners, stakeholder, outside partners, and other intra-agency offices. He provided many ideas to support and save money for the projects he's managed, grouped bridge superstructure replacements, and was vocal as project delivery and design letting schedule meetings and offered creative solutions to meet desirable outcomes within budget.

District 12



District Office





Keith Doersom

Chief Pilot – Bureau of Aviation



Keith Doersom has been providing the service of three people since 2012. While performing his duties as Chief Pilot, he also serves as the Airport Inspector and Flight Service Manager, saving the state nearly \$100,000 yearly, in salaries alone.

As Chief Pilot, Keith is available at any time, day or night, regardless of what day of the week it is. He frequently flies the Governor, and other high-level Commonwealth executives on routine and emergency-based trips. He's flown three Governors, multiple Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Bureau Directors, Representatives and Senators.

In addition to that service, he inspects and maintains the state plane, supervising and performing repairs of the engine, landing gear and other operating components of the aircraft. He ensures the tools and equipment are kept in proper condition and the plane is inspected in accordance with the schedules established by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Keith also ensures he and his staff attend the mandated flight simulator safety training yearly, so they are current with all the regulations and kept abreast of any new or developing technology.

*Multimodal
Transportation*



Garth D. Bridenbaugh, P.E.

Civil Engineer Manager – Bureau of Project Delivery



Garth Bridenbaugh served as Acting Section Chief for the Bureau of Project Delivery's Construction Quality Assurance Section (CQAS) until April 2018. Afterward, as the Quality Assurance Team Leader for Districts 2 & 9 and as the Department's CQAS Regional Lead on the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Rapid Bridge Replacement (RBR) project for the Central Region, providing guidance regarding PennDOT construction practices.

Garth is an expert in bituminous pavement and is respected for his knowledge statewide by industry businesses. Garth worked with the Pennsylvania Asphalt Pavement Association (PAPA) to develop a standard provision facilitating the use of higher amounts of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) into asphalt mixtures for use on low volume roadways in support of the Department's RoadMap initiative to expand the cost-effective use on our roadways. The higher the percentage of RAP used, the lower the cost. Due to him changing specifications, direct cost savings of \$262,500 were achieved.

*Highway
Administration*





Richard E. Heineman

Roadway Program Manager 2 – Bureau of Maintenance and Operations

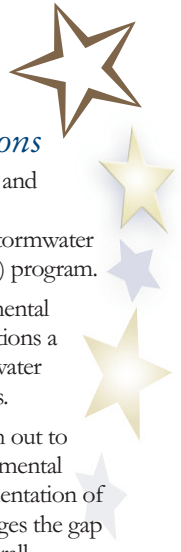
Rich Heineman worked successfully in 2018 to develop and implement a new Section in the Maintenance Technical Leadership Division dedicated to the management of stormwater and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) program.

The need for this program was evident when Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspectors identified through site inspections a deficiency in PennDOT’s stormwater program to maintain stormwater documentation, program development and reporting requirements.

Rich’s development of this section has allowed PennDOT to reach out to municipalities and partner with them and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to meet statewide stormwater goals and implementation of local programs. Working internally with Project Delivery Rich bridges the gap between Design, Construction and Maintenance regarding the overall stormwater program and current and future highway projects.

The stormwater manual, PUB 888 and associated training outlines the state and federal requirements PennDOT must adhere to be compliant with laws and regulations. It is anticipated this will save the Commonwealth \$100,000 per year in violations.

Highway
Administration



Erica B. Dutton

Administrative Officer 2 – Office of Deputy Secretary for Administration

Erica Dutton began working for the Commonwealth 13 years ago in the Utilities and Right-of-Way Section as a Clerk Typist 2. During her career at PennDOT, she has progressed to working for two former Secretaries and two Deputy Secretaries.

In her current role, Erica leads several different areas that support the entire agency. Erica is PennDOT’s liaison to the Governor’s Office for Out of State Travel and has served as our agency’s co-coordinator for the Commonwealth’s annual SECA Campaign, a role she has held since 2015. In 2018, PennDOT raised the highest dollar amount among all agencies for SECA, due in large part to Erica’s leadership.

Erica also serves a significant role in the following annual events-- Star of Excellence Awards, the Governor’s Awards for Excellence, Public Service Recognition Week, and the Take Your Child to Work Program. Erica also served as a Mentor in PennDOT’s Mentoring program in 2017 and 2018 and is a 2013 graduate of the Leadership, Education, Achievement, and Development (LEAD) Program.

Administration





Stephanie J. Shoemaker

Accountant 3 - Bureau of Fiscal Management



Central Office

Stephanie Shoemaker spent the last two years coordinating the "Standards of Internal Controls in Commonwealth Agencies" to meet the requirements of Management Directive 325.12. This new agenda requires the Department to submit an Internal Controls Template and create a corresponding Risk Assessment and Monitoring Plan.

She spent an enormous amount of time in 2017 creating the original process and utilized many lessons learned in the 2018 submission. The completion of the 2018 template resulted in only 11 follow-up questions which were quickly answered and ultimately a timely approval of PennDOT's submission.

Stephanie has also been challenged by coordinating many aspects and responses of the ongoing PennDOT Performance Audit being conducted by the Commonwealth's Auditor General. Through the end of 2018 this consisted of 74 individual requests from the Auditor General. Those requests involved complex coordination with all PennDOT Deputies and many organizations including Central Office and District Offices.

Administration



Jessica L. Clark

Transportation Planning Manager – Center for Program Development & Management



Jessica Clark manages the Twelve-Year Program section in the Center for Program Development and Management. She's dedicated herself to transforming the biennial update of that Program's list of projects into an innovative process that educates Pennsylvanians about transportation planning and invites their participation through public outreach strategies and communication methods.

She produced the visually compelling project list for the public using a StoryMap web document, that resulted in high-quality feedback and provided education of Pennsylvania's transportation system.

PennDOT is no longer spending money conducting State Transportation Commission (STC) hearings throughout the state that only produced a handful of public comments, which has resulted in substantial cost savings. The quantity and quality of data and comments received per dollar spent on technical support are significantly more valuable for the Department, STC and its Planning Partners in development of plans and programs.

Planning

Jessica and her team received awards from AASHTO Subcommittee on Transportation Research Communication and The Transportation Research Board for their work.





Rayna Lemelle

Administrative Officer 1 – Bureau of Support Services

As the Complement Control Manager for Driver and Vehicle Services, Rayna Lemelle is the “go to” person for all things related to keeping Driver and Vehicle Service’s approximately 1,400 positions filled. Her organizational skills served her well when she was assigned the daunting task of creating and requesting postings and execution of the hiring process for an additional 246 positions dedicated to the task of meeting federal requirements for issuance of REAL ID’s during 2018 and 2019.

Rayna used a self-created system to keep track of each position as it was worked through the hiring process while continuing to perform her regular duties with the same prompt and courteous service as always.

The impact of Rayna’s efforts is felt not only by Driver and Vehicle Services, but by millions of Pennsylvanians who rely on PennDOT for driver and vehicle services.

Driver and Vehicle Services



Jillian L. Harry

District Press Officer – District 1-0

Jill Harry’s dedication to PennDOT is clear in her every interaction, whether she’s dealing with a legislator, customer or colleague. Jill has managed the "Paint the Plow" campaign and has expanded the program to include schools in every county within District 1.

Leading a statewide committee, she streamlined the campaign guidelines to reflect uniformity. Jill’s ability to successfully engage with the community have helped PennDOT share important safety information. For example, Jill scheduled six bike events in 2018, and handed out over 140 bicycle safety kits to participating children. She created a "Doing Business with PennDOT" document to educate the public on Department procedures. Jill’s media relationships have yielded coverage in print, on television and in social media.

Press Office



Central Office





Jennifer L. Nulph

Construction Finals Unit Supervisor



Jennifer Nulph has worked for PennDOT for eight years and her work has been highly instrumental in improving the overall function of District 1.

Specifically, Jennifer led an effort to increase the District's project closeout percentage. This had been an area of struggle for District 1, but under Jennifer's leadership the District scored a 96.61 percent for the 2017 fiscal year. This not only exceeded the District's goal, but also the statewide average.

This turnaround made unused funds available sooner for future projects that will benefit motorists and residents through the region.

District 1 leadership points to Jennifer's attention to detail, responsibility-driven tracking methods, and willingness to train other employees as the main reason for the high closeout percentage.

Jennifer volunteers to help the District in other ways as well - serving on interview panels, talking at Disadvantage Business Employee events, and demonstrating effective communication skills.



David M. Demyanovich

Transportation Equipment Operator Supervisor



Dave Demyanovich has worked at the Erie County maintenance facility for more than 17 years.

In 2017, Dave was asked to lend his expertise on pugmills to the statewide RoadMaP initiative. His knowledge was invaluable as he worked alongside PennDOT Fleet Management and the equipment manufacturer to include needed safety and operational modifications.

The following year, Dave traveled to Districts 4, 5, 9, and 12 to set up the new pugmills and train operators. He assisted in writing training manuals and increased the overall efficiency of the program by serving as the designated troubleshooter.

His work ensured the Recycled Asphalt Pavement program, which offers considerable cost savings, is a success across the state.

As a highly respected part of the Erie County team, Dave's work on the RoadMaP initiative reinforced his reputation as a pugmill expert and an invaluable member of the PennDOT family.





Crista L. Dailey

Human Resources Officer



Crista L. Dailey showed great leadership in District 3 during a five-year span when the HR Unit was shorthanded. Dedicated and tenacious, the unit continued to provide outstanding customer service.

Crista works to ensure labor agreements benefit the department, and personnel issues are handled quickly

and fairly. Her team is focused on recruiting outreach at job fairs, local Career Links and schools. They continually seek new ways to improve safety and promote the department's safety culture. She has been pivotal in retaining many district-wide crew agreements, such as the regional seal coat and paving crews. This allowed the district to maintain lower equipment inventory and provide cost effective, efficient and high-quality operations.

County managers recognize Crista for the assistance she provides on a wide range of challenging issues because she has shown strength and compassion when dealing with injured employees and an employee fatality.

District 3



Jennifer A. Reed

Roadway Programs Coordinator



Jennifer Reed is a team player who has done an outstanding job as Roadway Programs Coordinator for District 3's Columbia/Montour maintenance organization.

Jennifer prepares and executes superb, detailed annual budgets, and collaborated with a co-worker

to develop a five-year Excel planning tool to manage road maintenance activities. She is knowledgeable about payroll and provides training throughout the district on the electronic payroll application. She also assisted with winter operations on Interstate 80 during Winter Storm Stella by providing weekend management.

Jennifer always makes safety a priority. She is active on her organization's safety committee and continually looks to improve safety culture. She has proven to be skilled at controlling inventory and under her direction, the maintenance organization reduced on-hand inventory by \$66,000. She also showed exceptional leadership while serving as acting county maintenance manager. Jennifer is respected by everyone as a hard-working, innovative and dependable employee.

District 3

District Office





David G. Viola, Jr.

Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor



After four summers as an intern at PennDOT, Dave Viola was hired in 2009 as a Civil Engineer in the Bridge Unit. Three years later, Dave was promoted to his current position as a Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor in charge of District-wide Bridge Maintenance.

Dave led bridge maintenance crews in constructing three major bridge improvements in District 5. These projects included two bridge replacements with box culverts and reconstructing deck and barriers on the third structure.

Because these projects are beyond the scope of what maintenance forces typically do, the significant cost savings is estimated at \$250,000.

District management value his positive attitude, expertise, and leadership in overseeing these projects, that stretch the limited funds available to keep our transportation network operational and safe. He often works alongside the crews managing the project and he's available during emergencies such as accidents involving bridges or flooding.

District 5

Todd F. Stehle

Highway Foreman 3



Todd Stehle began his career at PennDOT in 2002 as a welder, and in 2017, he was promoted to Highway Foreman 3, Bridge Foreman for Carbon County. Todd's a safety-first foreman and always displays a high level of concern for the crew and the motoring public.

Because of his leadership, his crew has gone from just doing general cleaning and patching to re-pouring decks and larger rehab jobs.

In the summer of 2019, the Carbon County bridge crew is scheduled to replace a deck on a secondary roadway. This will be the first time a job like this will be attempted in the County.

Considering the limited funds Carbon County has for this type of repair, the ability to ask this bridge crew to perform at least one job that normally would go out for contract repair, will be a big savings and will also help the county address more structurally deficient bridges.

District 5





Zachary R. Ickes

Highway Foreman 2

Zach Ickes is well respected by Somerset County Employees and external partners for his work ethic and knowledge of crew operations and planning. He began his career with PennDOT as a radio dispatcher and utilized the Department's Workforce Development program to improve his leadership and communication skills which resulted in several promotions throughout his 16 years of service.

District 9

Zach effectively directs his crews to provide great customer service and excellent planning for operations. He excels at managing resources required equipment, as well as communicating with vendors and the garage as part of Mill/Fill Operations.

Zach's crew completes quality work and exceeds production standards. In addition to performing this work county wide, the crew also performs shoulder back-up for the surface improvement work performed by Department super paving crews. Zach contributes to cost savings with department force operations he led and completed, without a contractor, for base and slide repairs.



Kelli H. Scalia

Roadway Programs Coordinator

Kelli Scalia developed a succession plan to train employees in the store room since the current employees are nearing retirement. As a result, her forward thinking and job knowledge will be retained in Huntingdon County, which ensure they continue to perform at a high-level and remain best in the state for inventory control. Scalia continues to anticipate

materials needs/availability with careful attention to detail, while not overstocking and maintaining a balanced budget.

Kelli is always willing to learn about other PennDOT positions. She attended the Assistant County Maintenance Manager Academy this past fall, volunteered to take the role of Acting Assistant County Manager during scheduled vacations and performed successfully.

She is a mentor to new hires and her approachable demeanor sets the example for all Huntingdon employees to follow. Additionally, she organized a Holiday Food Drive in the local area by coordinating with other agencies and helping her community.

District 9



District Office



John B. Myler

Transportation Construction Manager 3



In 2018, John Myler tackled two of the districts most significant projects, the Route 30 slide repair and the I-376 Parkway East Improvement Project. Both emergency projects dealt with critical corridors, high profile media coverage, and aggressive construction schedules. John managed both, in addition to his normal workload, with his customary professionalism and positive attitude.

Additionally, John is at the forefront of e-Construction, having been involved in the development of many iPad apps. John puts his expertise to work by participating in peer exchanges and conferences, not only across Pennsylvania, but also in other states. His e-Construction and e-Ticketing efforts have changed the way the Department performs construction inspections, increased efficiencies, and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in the process.

John is a mentor to many young staff members and is known for his ability to address complex issues and work collaboratively with stakeholders.

District 11

District Office



Joseph W. Kurnot, P.E.

Senior Civil Engineer Supervisor



Joe Kurnot stepped up and delivered the design for the I-376 Parkway East Improvement Project in 2018 in a compressed six-week timeframe. I-376 is a critical link between the City of Pittsburgh and the eastern suburbs and carries nearly 100,000 vehicles a day. The emergency repairs, including paving and structure dam replacement, needed to be accelerated due to the rapid deterioration of the roadway. It was crucial that the design be expedited to allow the work to occur during the 2018 construction season for the safety of motorists. Joe and his in-house squad ensured the project would be delivered rapidly, significantly saving time and millions of dollars by eliminating the need for consultant services for the design process.

The “Consider It Done” and “In-house Design Project” peer-nominated awards showcase his reputation among his fellow coworkers.

District 11

