

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
December 2021 - Volume 28, Issue 12

Employee of the Month

Schleicher's Reliability is Valuable at Personnel



Kim Schleicher
December Employee
of the Month

Kim Schleicher, a Secretary II for the Organization and Human Resource Development (OHRD) section of the Division of Personnel (DOP), has been selected as the Department of Administration's *Employee of the Month* for December.

A state employee for six years, Schleicher's main duty is supervising and managing trainings and certifications.

"Kim is always willing to accept a challenge and will help in any way she can," said the co-worker who nominated her. "She will rearrange her work to accommodate others who need her immediate assistance. She is an important member of the OHRD team, is very

valuable to the agency as a whole, and is always ready to lend a hand when she is needed.

"Her professionalism is evident in her exemplary work product," the co-worker continued. "Kim completes her work on time and is willing to take on extra duties to help her co-workers and the Division achieve its goals."

When she's not working, Schleicher enjoys nature and wildlife.

Schleicher will be joined by friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. in the DOP offices in Building 3.

WVOT Collaboration Creates Faster Network Speed, Better Access for State Libraries

A joint effort between the state's Library Commission and the West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT), with assistance from the state's central Purchasing Division, has led to significant improvements to the State Library Network's (SLN) broadband services. The collaboration gives West Virginians better access to resources at libraries across the state.

The SLN serves 144 libraries, each of which received increased internet connection speeds at an average of 900% faster as part of the project.

Library Commission Executive Secretary Karen Goff said the project



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Department of Administration's *Employee of the Year* 2021 Nominees Recognized



Derek Bailey
January Recipient



Rob Worlledge
February Recipient



Natalie Faulkner
March Recipient



Steve Bratchett
April Recipient



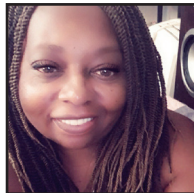
Shane Hall
May Recipient



Will Malone
June Recipient



Alysia Miller
July Recipient



Cheryl Cohen
August Recipient



Trent Kirk
September Recipient



Timothy Sylvester
October Recipient



Lora Myers
November Recipient



Kim Schleicher
December Recipient

Each year, the Department of Administration recognizes an employee as its *Employee of the Year*. This year's nominees (highlighted below) will be joined by their agency directors and *Employee of the Month* committee members on Dec. 9, 2021, for a small, private ceremony, where the recipient will be announced by Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott.

An official email announcement of the 2021 *Employee of the Year* winner will be sent to all Department of Administration employees following the ceremony.

Congratulations to our deserving *Employee of the Month* recipients for this year!

DEREK BAILEY, our January *Employee of the Month*, was an Administrative Services Assistant I for the Office of Technology. *Bailey has resigned from the Department of Administration.*

ROB WORLLEDGE, our February *Employee of the Month*, is an Accountant Auditor III for the Finance Division.

NATALIE FAULKNER, our March *Employee of the Month*, is a Systems Programmer II for the Office of Technology.

STEVE BRATCHETT, our April *Employee of the Month*, is a Custodian Lead for the General Services Division.

SHANE HALL, our May *Employee of the Month*, is an Inspector III in the Purchasing Division.

WILL MALONE, our June *Employee of the Month*, is an Information Technology Client Analyst II in the Office of Technology.

ALYSIA MILLER, our July *Employee of the Month*, is a Paralegal II for the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

CHERYL COHEN, our August *Employee of the Month*, is an Office Assistant II for the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property, which is overseen by the Purchasing Division.

TRENT KIRK, our September *Employee of the Month*, is an Administrative Services Assistant for the Finance Division.

TIMOTHY SYLVESTER, our October *Employee of the Month*, is a Data Warehouse Specialist I and Fleet Administrator with the Fleet Management Division.

LORA MYERS, our November *Employee of the Month*, is the Executive Secretary for the Board of Risk and Insurance Management.

KIM SCHLEICHER, our December *Employee of the Month*, is a Secretary II for the Division of Personnel.

Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes

Recovery Coach Project Receives National Awards

Since Public Defender Services (PDS) began arranging for its own peer recovery coaches in West Virginia, the Public Defender Corporation Recovery Coach Project has been met with praise. The Recovery Coach Project originally began with grant money obtained by PDS but was provided sustained state funding following its success. Recently, this PDS program received national attention and awards for its service efforts.

The Clara Shortridge Foltz Award is co-sponsored by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the American Bar Association's committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense. Established in 1985, this award "commends a public defender program or defense delivery system for outstanding achievement in the provision of indigent defense services."

The Public Defender Corporation Recovery Coach Project was also selected as one of nine Rural Innovation Sites by the Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC). As part of this recognition, the RJC will work with the project during the next three years to create educational materials for an online resource center. Additional funding from the State Justice Institute will allow for visits to community leaders and participation in regional conferences.

"Rural community leaders often don't have the resources to develop programs from scratch, but we know that many rural justice leaders, like those from the Public Defender Corporation Recovery Coach Project, have found innovative solutions to their complex problems," said Rulo Strategies Executive Director Tara Kunkel. Rulo Strategies partnered with the National Center for State Courts to create the RJC. "Before this, there has been no nationally concerted effort for justice leaders and their collaborators in other sectors to share what they know. The Innovation Sites provide a framework that others can build from."

Congratulations to PDS and the recovery coaches of the Public Defender Corporation Recovery Coach Project for receiving these national recognitions.



The Clara Shortridge Foltz Award "commends a public defender program or defense delivery system for outstanding achievement in the provision of indigent defense services." Public Defender Services received this award last month for its Recovery Coach Project efforts.

Consolidated Public Retirement Board Recognized for Outstanding Achievement in Financial Reporting

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR).

The award represents a significant achievement for CPRB.



To be eligible for the PAFR award, a government must also submit its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program and receive the Certificate for the current fiscal year. Each eligible report is reviewed by judges who evaluate

the report based on the following categories: reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity, and other elements.

"I believe that it is important the CPRB issues a (PAFR) to effectively communicate financial results, fiduciary net position, and funding status for each of the 10 retirement systems administered by the CPRB, and to do so in a concise and understandable format," said CPRB Chief Financial Officer John D. Galloway.

GFOA advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

Beautiful Christmas Trees on Display at West Virginia State Capitol Ahead of Joyful Night Celebration

Each year, the state of West Virginia displays two beautifully decorated Christmas trees on the Capitol campus for the holiday season, thanks to generous donations from West Virginia residents. This year, Helen Herring from Elkview donated a tree for the second time, an 18-year-old Frasier Fir, while the Buchanan family from Hansford donated a Blue Spruce tree in honor of their late daughter, Andrea, who passed away in 2009 at age 17.

The Frasier Fir, which can be seen in the North Plaza of the Capitol grounds, was planted by John Armstrong of French Creek Farms as a replacement for a previous tree that was always decorated for the holidays. When that tree grew too large, it was donated to the Capitol grounds in 2010. It was always the family's intention to donate the current Frasier Fir when it also became too large.

"We are honored to have it on display at our state Capitol," said Herring.

The Blue Spruce can be seen on the Lincoln Plaza on the south side of the Capitol building.

The Buchanans planted their tree ap-

proximately 25 years ago at their residence in eastern Kanawha County after Michael, a state employee for more than 36 years and currently a director in the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office, received it from the Division of Forestry as part of State Employee Appreciation Week. He planted it on his property with his daughter Andrea and her mother Tracy, who was pregnant with their son, Alex, at the time. The tree has always been known as Andrea's Tree.



"My family and I are very honored to have Andrea's tree displayed at the Capitol for this holiday season," said Buchanan. "It has been decorated many times over the years, and I'm looking forward to seeing it shine in all its glory. I know Andrea will be looking down and smiling from the heavens!"



Photo Courtesy of Michael Buchanan

Each December, two trees adorn the Capitol Campus as part of the holiday season. This year's trees were donated by Helen Herring of Elkview, and the Buchanan family from Hansford in honor of Michael Buchanan's late daughter, Andrea (pictured above).

The decorated trees will be featured during the upcoming virtual Joyful Night Celebration. Information about this event will be released by the Governor's Office.

BROADBAND PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

is another example of the Library Commission's commitment to providing access to information to every West Virginian. That access now requires robust broadband to support library operations and connect people to digital formats. "It would not have been possible without specialized knowledge and cooperation on many levels," Goff said.

The Library Commission led the efforts to coordinate the project, which was completed in multiple phases, beginning with the pre-solicitation work to draft adequate specifications and a scope of work. The WVOT was heavily involved in preparing the specifications, and in some cases, the libraries were in rural locations that did not have adequate broadband services, making that challenge even greater. Even before this project, all public libraries had internet service. Although adequate at one time, a creative approach to match capacity with demand was needed.

Upon award, five pilot locations for the proof of concept were selected, and following successful installation and testing, work began on the other sites by April 2021. With assistance from WVOT's networking and field staff, the project was completed in three months.

The vendor (Frontier Communications), in conjunction with the SLN and WVOT, assessed each site, prepared it for enhanced fiber installation, delivered the circuit to each location, and in-

stalled the necessary cables.

"This is an excellent example of inter-agency cooperation leading to significant improvements in technology," said WVOT Chief Information Officer Josh Spence. "We live in a digital world, and we must continue to place importance on leveraging technology effectively and efficiently."

The partnership between the Library Commission and the WVOT to provide enterprise technology services has already resulted in cost savings and improved support, since much of the work can be done in house. The completion of this project laid the groundwork for future projects to improve the services provided to citizens at libraries across the state.

"We are proud to be a part of such a significant achievement in making broadband enhancements to the State Library Network," said West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History Curator Randall Reid-Smith. "I consider it a great accomplishment anytime we can provide services that will benefit the people of West Virginia. Our partnership with the Office of Technology will allow us to continue that success in the future."

The next phase of this project will involve extending new information technology services and improved cybersecurity.

The Library Commission has assisted public libraries since 1929.

Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes

Office of Technology Employee Showcases Cooking Talent on The Rachael Ray Show

In August, Andrew Lore was named *Procurement Officer of the Year* by the Purchasing Division. Now, apart from the work he does for the Office of Technology, he has become known for his cooking, specifically with television talk show host Rachael Ray.

Lore appeared on The Rachael Ray Show on Nov. 9, 2021. He was there to share his love for both cooking and the talk show host.

"I am a lifelong fan of Rachael Ray and her 30 Minute Meals," Lore said. "I learned to cook watching her."

Being such a fan, Lore was saddened in August 2020 when a fire destroyed Ray's house. She talked on her show about the different things she and her husband, John M. Cusimano, had lost. That's when Lore decided to gather Ray's recipes he had been making, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown, along with photos of the dishes, and make a book of them. He then sent that book to Ray, along with a personal note of encouragement.

"I wanted to send her something since I'm such a fan. I wasn't expecting a response," Lore said.

The response first came in the form of a flower arrangement left at his door with a "thank you" note. That was soon followed by a letter from Ray inviting him to the show.

It was a quick 24-hour experience for Lore. He flew to New York City at 4 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2021, and back home the following afternoon after filming the show. Lore wasn't allowed to say anything about it until Nov. 5, 2021.

"I'm a private person at work. Lots of people didn't even know I like to cook, and this whole thing was out of my comfort zone," Lore said.

Lore's comfort zone may need to be expanded since Ray invited him back to the show.

"She gave me homework. She wants me to make something of my own then come back to the show and cook it with her," he said. "I have some ideas and would like to somehow incorporate West Virginia themes into what I cook."

A date for Lore's return to The Rachael Ray Show hasn't been scheduled. In the meantime, he has fond memories of his first visit.

"The whole experience was won-



In November, Office of Technology employee Andrew Lore was invited onto The Rachael Ray Show after he created a book personalized with the host's recipes, complete with pictures of the meals he had cooked during the pandemic, and sent it to the talk show host.

derful, and I was well taken care of," Lore said. "Rachael and her team are very warm and inviting. She was as excited to meet me as I was her. It's a real gift in someone famous to make people feel that way."

Lore's appearance on The Rachael Ray Show can be found online at <https://rach.tv/3HcU6p4>.

November Employee Question of the Month

Each November, the Department of Administration invites its employees to share what they are thankful for. Thank you to all employees who participated in this and all our *Employee Questions of the Month*.

Submissions for this year's list include:

- Family, especially a great wife and two super sons
- Anime
- My family and friends
- The LORD above
- I'm thankful that I have enough food to eat and a home to go to when a lot of people around us don't have those.
- The confidence to be who I am
- Acceptance and self love
- The internet
- The days my daughter is healthy
- Salvation and family
- Freedom
- My family, my pets, my job, my home, my health and my memories
- That every minute, and every day brings a new opportunity to start over again!
- My family and our love for each other
- Family health
- I am thankful for health, family and a wonderful job.
- My boss and my team!
- Family. Never take for granted having a loving caring family, no matter how it may change over the years. Family
- is still family and I'm thankful to have my family.
- The ability to work from home
- My husband and new baby girl
- The little things: morning coffee, smiles from strangers, walks outside, and good books!
- A good job
- Found family
- I am thankful for the group classes that are available at my gym.
- I am most thankful for those who have supported me when I needed it most.
- The wonderful people of this department that I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead

United Way Encouraging Payroll Deductions as COVID-19 Pandemic Continues

West Virginia's United Way locations continue to provide services and assistance to the most vulnerable citizens affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

United Way has always connected individuals and families with food, health care services, transportation, utility and eviction prevention, and more. The pandemic has expanded their work and the need for the services they provide. During Fiscal Year 2021, nearly 90,000 people were fed by staff and volunteers. Additionally, the United Way distributed more than 123,000 shelf stable meals that were taken home. More than 600 families who were affected by the pandemic were able to keep utilities on due to grant funding, and 380 adults and 75 children moved from the streets into safe and secure housing.

"For so many families, the impact of the pandemic continues to be felt. Even one dollar a week can help so many in need," said Administration Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Scott.

State employees have generously supported the United Ways across West Virginia by donating through payroll deduction. The deadline to donate through payroll deduction for the upcoming year is Dec. 10, 2021. Simply fill out the digital form, located at bit.ly/3xa3oh4 and submit it to Kaye.J.Parks@wv.gov by the deadline.

All questions regarding this campaign may be directed to Marsha.L.Bowling@wv.gov.

Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Brittney James** (CPRB); **Michael Fisher** (General Services); **Krista Peyton** (Technology); and **Mark D. Scott** (Secretary's Office).

Best Wishes ... to **Kenna DeRaimo** (PEIA) and **Bill Brogan** (Technology), who recently resigned from our department.

Happy Retirement! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Paul Hardy Jr.** (CPRB) the very best during his retirement.

Employee Question of the Month ... Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees to share what they were thankful for. These results can be seen on **Page 5**. This month, we want to know "What is your New Year's resolution?" Share what you hope to work toward in 2022 by visiting <https://forms.gle/Y42FkRgC6T-ta4KYBA>. Responses must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 10, 2021.

Got News? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in DECEMBER

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of December:

Chip McDowell.....Aviation	Kathy Lester.....PEIA
John Fernatt.....BRIM	Jennifer Perry.....PEIA
Kimberly Hensley.....BRIM	Jan Powell.....PEIA
Stephen Schumacher.....BRIM	Charlotte Stover.....PEIA
Tina Baker.....CPRB	Susan Trail.....PEIA
Christopher Barr.....CPRB	Amy Crook.....Personnel
James Brisendine.....CPRB	Brian Holmes.....Personnel
Megan Fields.....CPRB	Melanie Larch.....Personnel
Brittney James.....CPRB	Teresa Morgan.....Personnel
Charles Wolfe.....CPRB	Brittany Rutrough.....Personnel
Theresa Kirk.....Ethics	Bobbie Wisniewski.....Personnel
Stephanie Bailes.....Finance	Pamela Clark.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Renee King.....Finance	Jonathan Friley.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Stephanie Kirk.....Finance	Gordon Simmons.....Pub.Def.Srvs.
Matthew Reynolds.....Finance	Greg Clay.....Purchasing
Steven Adkins.....Gen.Srvs.	Steven Bradbury.....Real Estate
Joseph Belcher.....Gen.Srvs.	Bob Paulson.....Sec. of Admin.
Glenn Briscoe.....Gen.Srvs.	Heather Abbott.....Technology
Richard Casdorph.....Gen.Srvs.	Rodney Chapman.....Technology
Shaun Dempsey.....Gen.Srvs.	Jason Curia.....Technology
William Dodson.....Gen.Srvs.	Jason Fewell.....Technology
Robert Hensley.....Gen.Srvs.	Jennifer Harmon.....Technology
Christopher Hughart.....Gen.Srvs.	William Holmes.....Technology
Timothy Lee.....Gen.Srvs.	James Kirk.....Technology
Kimberly Miller.....Gen.Srvs.	David Lester.....Technology
Dave Parsons.....Gen.Srvs.	Gary Lewis.....Technology
Steven Phillips.....Gen.Srvs.	Kenneth Martin.....Technology
Glenn Sigmon.....Gen.Srvs.	David Nolasowski.....Technology
Larry Thomas.....Gen.Srvs.	Christopher Rankin.....Technology
Jonathan Trout.....Gen.Srvs.	Jeremy Rhodes.....Technology
Jennifer Barger.....PEIA	Geoff Richardson.....Technology
Teresa Burdette.....PEIA	Georgina Richardson.....Technology
Amanda Downs.....PEIA	Patrick Scragg.....Technology
Karen Hall.....PEIA	Vincent Sodaro.....Technology
Felice Joseph.....PEIA	Joann Summers.....Technology

Administrative Notes

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