

United States Government

**Distinguished Administrative/Professional Service Award**



**Jenifer Holderman**

***Hazard Mitigation Specialist  
Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency***

Jenifer Holderman is a Program Analyst with FEMA's Mitigation Division and has been with FEMA since 2015. She supports the Hazard Mitigation Branch in all aspects of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program with analysis of funding, programming, and financial oversight. Her responsibilities include managing monthly/annual spend plans for Region VII disaster declarations and evaluation of the grant performance as it relates to project tracking, the grant lifecycle and closeout process. She is also responsible for the division's intranet site content, steers the Region's Mentor Program, and serves as a Media Relations Specialist when deployed to disasters. Jenifer took the initiative to ensure the required filing, storage and disposition of grant records within the Branch. This was a priority due to the pending move of the Regional office, which was compounded by the deployment of her and the entire branch to support the record 2017 Hurricane season. She took the herculean effort to ensure over 250 boxes of records were sent to the Federal Records Center and processed over 40 boxes of records for destruction. On return from her deployment, between October 27 and December 4, she scanned and processed over 70 boxes of records. Her efforts were instrumental to the successful, on-time move of the Division to the new building.

In addition, Jenifer epitomizes FEMA's core values of compassion and respect for disaster survivors. During the onset of Hurricane Harvey, she volunteered to support virtual call-center operations, facilitating survivor's registration for FEMA support and grants. She also deployed to Florida supporting Hurricane Irma survivors as a member of External Affairs, promoting continuous and timely information.

Before joining FEMA, Jenifer was President of Peoples National Bank followed by Administrator of the Coffey County Library System. She credits her success to strong mentors she had early in her career and believes our two greatest priorities are to coach and mentor within the agency for succession planning and to give back to our communities. Jenifer is currently a mentor for a local business owner, volunteers with the Kansas City Sports Commission, 100 Women Who Care, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and the Delta Gamma Sorority.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Clerical Service Award**



**Karissa Clark**  
*Operations Support Specialist  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service  
National Benefits Center*

Karissa Clark distinguished herself during FY2017 serving as a student trainee in the National Benefits Center's (NBC) Management Division. She continues to excel in her technical skills and has become a quintessential resource to mission accomplishment.

Karissa began working in the Management Division with the NBC Staffing in April 2017, when she joined NBC as a student trainee. Of particular note was her work to assist supervisors during a significant transition to a new framework for Performance Plan and Appraisals (PPA) for almost 950 Federal employees. She worked alongside the NBC's Performance Management Administrator to ensure all employees had been properly transitioned to the new PPA framework within a very aggressive timeframe. Her assistance in this process allowed the NBC to ensure its employees understood performance expectations and were properly rated.

In every project assigned to her as a student trainee, Karissa has achieved, and even exceeded, what is expected from a student trainee. Most recently, she researched the pertinent Code of Federal Regulations and US Office of Personnel Management policies, along with the agency's Collective Bargaining Agreement and local labor-management agreement, to gather information to support changes to the organization's timekeeping procedures. The resulting document has become a valuable resource for supervisors to understand and articulate procedures for employees to account for their time.

Finally, Karissa has become the critical link who ensures all records and documentation supplied to the NBC's Management Division are properly catalogued and filed electronically, thus making them readily accessible for use in carrying out administrative casework.

Karissa has quickly become a "first responder" to the unexpected needs of the NBC's Management Division.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Community Service Award**



**Sondra Tucker**  
*Physical Scientist*  
*Environmental Protection Agency*

Sondra Tucker began her Federal career as a Chemist with the Food and Drug Administration in 1999 before joining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7 in 2002 as an Organic Chemist. She has worked in the Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division on a variety of issues including pesticide enforcement and lead-based paint, but her career at EPA has primarily focused on keeping America's waters clean.

She also served as an advisor to the Region's Equal Opportunity Officer (EEO) and EPA Senior Management on EEO matters related to Black Employees. She served on the Diversity Leadership Council and helped lead Regional efforts to foster a cohesive, inclusive and positive work environment.

She is a trailblazer and leader throughout the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area and beyond. She volunteers as a coach and mentor to aSTEAM Village, Inc., which is dedicated to bringing science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to youth and adults in the Kansas City area without regards to socioeconomic status, race, or background. She is a mentor to numerous youth and helps break down barriers and open the doors to higher education and prepares under-represented youth for successful careers. She is focused on preparing today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders by inspiring them to become science and technology leaders, engaging them with exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, technology skills, innovation, and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

She serves as a Mentor and Assistant Track Coach for the Palestine Track Team. She promotes excellence for youth through track and field while building her team's life and social skills. She has coached more than 200 young athletes, ages 5-18, who worked to improve their physical and mental fitness and teamwork skills through organized track and field. Due to her efforts, many of the athletes have gone on to earn NCAA Division I and NAIA athletic scholarships.

Throughout her career Sondra has worked to protect the environment and inspire her community. Both her colleagues and the many youths she mentors are honored and blessed by her passion, commitment, and dedication to make their life and community a better place to live.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Diversity Award**

**Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Team**  
*U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service  
National Benefits Center*



The National Benefits Center's Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Team enhanced the appreciation of diversity through the delivery of educational programs for the NBC's employees and federal employees throughout the Kansas City Metro Area.

Team members directly support the Diversity, Education, and Cultural Awareness (DECA) Committee of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board (FEB). They take a lead role with DECA to deliver programs that are enjoyed by Federal employees throughout the Kansas City area. One such program is the Martin Luther King Jr. Training Luncheon. This luncheon regularly attracts professional and educational key-note speakers for an afternoon of thought-provoking conversations. During this event, DECA also collects significant amounts of canned food items for the Harvester's food pantry.

Within the NBC, the Team hosts "Diversity Day," which is a local celebration of the multiple cultures represented at the NBC. The 2017 Diversity Day was the largest to date. More than 300 employees attended the event, which included over 50 displays representing the cultural diversity of the organization. The displays were developed and hosted by NBC employees.

The Team also collaborates with individuals, government and non-profit organizations, businesses and educational institutions throughout the Kansas City area to arrange for guest speakers for educational events. Through their participation in these events, these speakers gain a positive impression of Federal employees as they witness firsthand the attention that is given to promote cultural awareness throughout the Federal community.

The Team's efforts are also benefiting the newest members of the Kansas City area's workforce. By representing the Federal government at career fairs, the SEPM team is introducing public service as an honorable and viable option as members of the next generation consider their career choices.

The Team's hard work and dedication serve to break down barriers by promoting conversations that create a better understanding of cultural differences and commonalities. It's delivery of high quality programming sets the example for similar programs throughout United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## **United States Government Distinguished Leadership Award**



**Stacy Robarge-Silkner**  
*Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief  
Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency*

Stacy Robarge-Silkner is the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief for FEMA Region VII. She leads a 15-peron team responsible for the execution and oversight of the regional Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. These programs exceeded over \$50M in federal grant funding for fiscal year 2017.

Stacy's approachable leadership, combined with her integrity, compassion and "can-do" attitude has led her branch to exceed and lead the nation in several key metrics. She started off the year by taking the initiative to host a branch off-site focused on team building and getting buy-in from everyone on the priorities and goals for the upcoming year. This paid off tremendously with her branch setting the national benchmark at 98% regarding the accuracy and timeliness of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Quarterly Reporting. Stacy and her team have enhanced their outreach, collaboration and technical assistance to the states within the Region thereby facilitating the states of Iowa and Missouri to reach the status of Program Administration States (PAS). PAS allows states more control and ownership within the grant processing arena. Only 5 states have reached this status and 2 are in Region VII. Her leadership and communication with external stakeholders has added synergy for states and tribes to be competitive in applying for national Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants (FMA). This approach enabled the states to garner 19 PDM Grants and 13 FMAs valued at over \$25 million.

In addition to her primary job, Stacy volunteered and deployed in support of Hurricane Irma as a member of an Incident Management Assistance Team. She trained and mentored two planners to meet FEMA Qualification Standards.

Prior to coming to mitigation Stacy was the Senior Planner at FEMA Region VII where she was Lead Planner for several major planning projects including the FEMA Region VII Food, Veterinary, and Agriculture Annex project, a FEMA Center of Excellence Project. Stacy has over 20 years of experience in the emergency management field at the local, state, and federal level. Stacy considers herself a Transformational Leader.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award**



**Ann Adams**  
*Deputy District Director  
Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration*

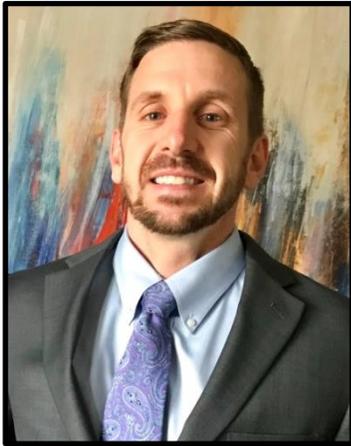
Dr. Ann Adams has 28 years of service with the federal government, all with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She has served six years as Deputy District Director of the Kansas City District, twelve years as Laboratory Director of the Kansas City Laboratory and 10 years as Research Parasitologist.

She has performed at a high level and made significant contributions to ensuring protection of the public health. She served as FDA's only national field expert in parasitology, testifying as expert witness in regulatory cases. Her work influenced seafood regulations and impacted the seafood industry to modify practices resulting in decreased parasitic load in food. She was also integral in investigating the emergence of cyclospora in berries imported from Guatemala and worked with growers there to control and eradicate the parasite. During Ann's tenure as Kansas City Laboratory Director, the laboratory achieved accreditation to international standards.

Ann was responsible for overseeing the primary center for FDA's Total Diet Study, a program which examines the average American diet for nutrition and exposure to pesticide residues and toxic elements. Under her oversight, the Kansas City Laboratory was the key analytical center for examining several hundred pet food samples for the presence of melamine during an investigation of sick and dying pets. Her laboratory also played a major role in analysis of seafood from the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the oil spill during Deepwater Horizon.

As Deputy District Director of Kansas City District, Ann fully participates in overseeing all of FDA's investigational and compliance operations within the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. She serves a fundamental role in liaison and cooperative relationships with state governments, academia and public health organizations. She leads the effort on integration of federal state operations to more effectively and efficiently utilize resources to achieve consumer protection. She has overseen numerous investigative efforts in follow-up to foodborne outbreaks involving E.coli, Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes, resulting in more rapid detection of the vector and more quickly removing contaminated food from the marketplace.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Military/Military Support Award**



**Jay Erwin**  
***Special Agent***  
***Office of Personnel Management***  
***National Background Investigations Bureau***

Jay Erwin exemplifies serving others. He began by serving with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division until injuries suffered during a mortar strike while in a combat zone almost took his life. After first volunteering to serve on the front lines for his country, Jay transitioned back to civilian life and learned first-hand that there was more that could be done for others struggling with that transition.

It is then that Jay became heavily involved in GallantFew, an organization dedicated to prevent veteran unemployment, homelessness, and suicide. GallantFew's core mission is providing one-on-one mentoring of veterans by veterans, and Jay was there on the ground floor as GallantFew was in its infancy and growing its network.

Jay has been involved or led many projects for GallantFew, all on his own personal time, without compensation, and on top of other life commitments as a full-time student, federal employee, father and husband. Jay worked on a project to locate and coordinate attorneys that were willing to work together and assist veterans in need of legal advice. He was a key writer for the GallantFew's blog. Jay has worked extensively with veterans that have been suicidal, battling problems related to drug and alcohol dependence, and those simply looking for gainful employment. He has personally interacted with and supported over 1,000 veterans as they work to overcome these obstacles, spending his time and energy guiding and coaching others as they take control of their lives and advance their careers.

Jay understands how his actions of service impact veterans and may lead others to do more. This is the legacy Jay is leaving for his children and those that have come to know him over the years. Jay's dedication to serving others genuinely goes above and beyond what may generally be expected. His efforts towards attending to the needs of others exemplifies what a public servant does for those having volunteered to stand in our military ranks. A humble and professional member of the federal civilian community, Jay is a solid and well-deserving recipient of the military support award.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Public Safety - Award**



**AARON SEIGEL**  
***Special Agent***  
***Department of Homeland Security***  
***Federal Protective Service Region VI***

Special Agent Aaron Seigel, Federal Protective Service (FPS), Region 6, Kansas City, Missouri, has been instrumental in the success of the FPS during the past year. Aaron has built relationships with numerous Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement / Intelligence agencies and provided active shooter training to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), consolidated campus.

Through his actions, FPS has increased real-time intelligence, which in turn, has been used to increase FPS's law enforcement response to approximately twenty planned or pop up style protests. These protests have either targeted federal facilities or have been in close proximity to federal facilities. His work prior to the protests has yielded information that was used by the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board and / or the Heads of Agencies to determine operational and / or agency staffing for the time periods of the protests. During these protests, Aaron has been in the Unified Command Posts, providing law enforcement liaison with partners and sharing real-time information. This information was passed on to the FPS command to assist them in providing the best law enforcement coverage to the Federal Community.

He has also completed 16 threat assessments reports and provided information that was used in the completion of approximately 20 more. The threat assessment reports are a piece of the FPS's Facility Security Assessment (FSA). Many of the reports he completed were for facilities with a Facility Security Level (FSL) 4. A facility which has a FSL level 4 is one step away from the highest level, FSL 5. His work with law enforcement / intelligence was instrumental in obtaining vital information used in these 36 reports.

Aaron leveraged his partnerships with Federal and Local Law Enforcement to provide active shooter training and facility knowledge for the IRS consolidated campus. He was vital to bridging the communication gap between the various would be responding agencies. He coordinated and oversaw a LEO walk through of the IRS campus and conducted a LEO tabletop exercise. This exercise included, the FPS, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) and Kansas City Missouri Police Department.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Team Award**

**National Nuclear Security Administration's  
Kansas City Field Office's Bannister Disposition Team**

The National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City Field Office's Bannister Disposition Team, consisting of (*counterclockwise*) Environmental Specialist, Ms. Sybil Chandler, Project Manager Mr. Kingsley Edwards, Public Affairs Specialist Ms. Gayle Fisher, and Site Counsel, Mr. Albert Guarino, crafted a creative and aggressive program to transfer several million square feet of excess real property for private development Kansas City, MO.



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In 2013, the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

moved its Kansas City operations from the World War II era, 300-acre Bannister Federal Complex to the newly built Kansas City National Security Campus. The Bannister site was excess to the needs of the government and was afflicted with industrial contamination typical of industrial sites from that era. Complicating the effort, the General Services Administration (GSA) had custody and control of approximately half of the main operating complex and NNSA had custody and control of the other half. Initial estimates concluded demolition and remediation of the property would cost over \$900 million. Due to the projected expense, the property was in jeopardy of being left abandoned and undeveloped, contributing to economic blight in the south Kansas City neighborhood. Working closely with the GSA's Region Six headquarters personnel, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Region Seven Federal Facilities regulators, the Bannister Disposition Team developed a comprehensive program to transfer the property for redevelopment in an environmentally responsible, cost-efficient manner, overcoming myriad obstacles and saving the government more than half a billion dollars.

**United States Government  
Distinguished Technical Service Award**



**Sara Hayden**

***Immigration Services Analyst  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration- National Records Center***

The International Information Sharing (IIS) section is a DHS-level program created to share sensitive immigration-related information with foreign partners in order to curb fraud, human trafficking, and national security concerns. The IIS program handles complex immigration information requests related to international agreements with foreign partners. Each agreement contains different languages and requirements for both requests and responses.

Sarah Hayden has been an integral part of the development of the program and related processes since its inception. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the program from her time as an Immigration Service Officer. Sarah recognized the need to have standardization and the requirement to have plain language for non-native English speakers. Although not a programmer by trade, Sarah worked diligently to create a computer application called the “Immigration Information Response Drafter.”

The introduction of the Immigration Information Response Drafter (IIRD) has had a dramatic impact on operations within the IIS. This application increases the accuracy and efficiency of responses to foreign partners. The IIRD allows analysts to cite specific sections of immigration law as detailed in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), by country, thereby standardizing and streamlining processes in the department. Since implementing the IIRD, average response times by IIS analysts have been reduced by 40%. In addition, the IIRD combines with the details of the specific request by foreign partners to create a comprehensive and customized response for foreign partner usage. Sarah ensures the proper legal language from the INA, Privacy Act of 1974, and International Agreements between the United States government and foreign partners is emphasized in each response. Due to the impact these responses have on National Security decisions, fraud and identity investigations, and adjudicative decisions for both the United States government and foreign partners, it was imperative that all policies, procedures, and processes are closely followed.

Sarah’s work has already had a dramatic impact on department operations, and will only become more important in the future as the IIS expands.

## **2018 Nominations**

*The Federal Executive Board, on behalf of the 2018 Public Employees Recognition Day Committee, would like to recognize everyone nominated this year. We salute you for a job well done. Keep up the great work.*

### **United States Government Employees**

#### ***Administrative/Professional***

**Dane Childs**, Department of the Army, United States Army Combined Arms Center

**Danielle Dunbar**, Environmental Protection Agency

**Sandra Guerrant**, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, National Records Center

**April Hancock-Oswald**, Department of Homeland Security, National Benefits Center

**Amanda Larigan**, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Samantha Nguyen**, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Jeremiah Shuler**, Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Region VII

#### ***Community Service***

**Logan T. Daniels**, Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Region VII

**Carla Smocks**, Environmental Protection Agency

#### ***Leadership***

**Alan Garrsion**, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

**Shannon Graves**, Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Region VII

**Teri Mayer**, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

**Matthew McDonald**, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Adm., Kansas Division

**Eric Stonner**, General Services Administration

**Simone Westermayer**, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, National Records Center

#### ***Lifetime Achievement***

**Bill Kloeckner**, Internal Revenue Service

**Fred R. Mohrmann, Jr.**, Department of the Army, United States Army Combined Arms Cntr.

**Michael Mullen**, Federal Aviation Administration

**Linda Tantillo**, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**John Topi**, General Services Administration

**Brian J. Welsh**, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, National Records Center

## ***Public Safety***

**Zane Steves**, General Services Administration

## ***Team***

**FEMA Region VII IMAT (Incident Management Team)**

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

**Financial Management Branch, Region 6**

Federal Protective Services

**FTA Regional VII Transportation Planning & Environment Team**

Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Region VII

**GSA Fleet Loss Prevention Team**

General Services Administration

**Health Insurance Specialist**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Payment Mail & Operations Branch, KC Financial Center**

Department of Treasury

**Special Agents**

National Background Investigations Bureau

**Surge Capacity Force Liaison.1**

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

**Surge Capacity Force Liaison.2**

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

## ***Technical***

**John Nelson**, General Services Administration

**Sonia Pendergrass**, National Background Investigations Bureau

**Seth Watson**, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, National Records Center