

United States Government  
Distinguished Clerical Award



**Debra Ramm**  
*Secretary to the Director*  
*Department of Treasury*  
*Internal Revenue Service*  
*Accounts Management*

Debra's official job title is Secretary to the Director for Accounts Management at the Internal Revenue Service. This hardly does justice to the job that she does. The Accounts Management operation in Kansas City, with up to 1,800 employees, has seen Directors come and go. The one constant has always been Debra. With over 30 years of service, Debra has been invaluable to Directors ensuring that all administrative work is completed timely and accurately. Debra is the point of contact for all members of the public, employees and other executives coming to the Director's office. Debra's good judgement is relied upon by all who encounter her. Regardless of the complexity, Debra always assists others with a smile and ensures she either resolves the issue or directs them to where they need to be. Debra ensures time is input and correct for all employees every week. She is the go-to person to resolve any timekeeping errors. All incoming and outgoing correspondence are cleared through Debra. All Headquarters, Legislative Affairs and Congressional Office correspondences are controlled and cleared through Debra prior to responding back. Debra monitors our budget to ensure we are within our allocation. In addition to daily tasks, Debra is always available to help any of the other areas in the Kansas City campus. She regularly volunteers to teach new Secretaries.

Debra is a mentor and coach to other secretaries throughout the campus. She prepares course material and instructs new secretary classes. She has an excellent working relationship with all areas of the campus organization. She leads and participated in task groups for process improvements. She volunteers as a mock interviewer for employees looking to advance. Her expertise is regularly sought out by others at the campus and in headquarters. With Debra overseeing the daily operations, we can provide quality customer service to taxpayers, employees and all who are impacted by our agency.

United States Government  
Distinguished Diversity Award



**Nathan Roser**

***Government Information Specialist  
Department of Homeland Security  
U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services  
National Records Center***

Nathan Roser received the Diversity Award for his amazing accomplishments as a FOIA processor during FY 2019. Nathan has overcome the challenges of autism to become a critical contributor to the FOIA team. He has leveraged his unique capabilities to bring attention to the incredible potential of a neuro-diverse workplace. Since joining the NRC, Nathan has been a vocal advocate of employees with disabilities and has been instrumental in assisting management and his fellow employees to understand better how to work with autistic employees. Recently he volunteered to assist as a liaison within our hiring initiative to better position the NRC to locate and hire other individuals with autism who might be particularly well suited for FOIA employment. Nathan has also become an active EEOC member since onboarding at the NRC and has advanced initiatives and conversations surrounding the neuro-diverse community.

Nathan has also been working with the NRC Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) to bring a specialized job coach to the NRC during Disability Awareness Month to provide advocacy information and resources. Between October 2019 and January 2020, Nathan processed an amazing 248,473 pages of responsive FOIA records, roughly three times the overall USCIS FOIA individual average. Simply put, Nathan accurately processes 527 pages per hour, which is over 5 times his standard production expectation. Nathan is far surpassing all production standards for achieving excellence. Nathan maintained a 97.56% quality rating while demonstrating his incredible productivity as a new FOIA processor. Nathan ensures he is in adherence with all regulatory statutes and that he protects all government security interests. Nathan's efforts have enabled FOIA to improve its responsiveness to customer requests and is resetting the bar within FOIA for what excellence in FOIA processing looks like. His incredible productivity as a FOIA processor has been inspirational. Nathan's colleagues and supervisors have rallied behind his incredible efforts and agency customers have benefited from his seemingly superhuman production pace.

United States Government  
Distinguished Leadership Award



**Steven Cody Brown**  
*Life Scientist*  
*Environmental Protection Agency*

In the last year Steven Cody Brown has designed and implemented innovative, collaborative and results-oriented programs to improve the health of EPA Region 7's citizens through unique outreach efforts relating to indoor and outdoor air quality impacts relating to radon, asthma and outdoor air quality.

Cody's ability to build alliances within the EPA and with external partners such as state agencies, local governments and citizens has enhanced EPA's image with the general public and with our states. His enthusiasm is infectious. He builds excitement with his partners and uses this to further the reach of the EPA's efforts by extending federal efforts to state and local partners. Cody's level of effort on multiple projects this past year has exceeded agency standards, enhanced the impact of federal employees and provided important education and resources that could save the lives of our citizens, over 14 million people.

United States Government  
Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award



**Dedriel Gardner**  
***Inspector***  
***Resource Conservation and Recovery Act***  
***Environmental Protection Agency***

This nomination is in recognition of the tremendous contribution that Dedriel Gardner has made to EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Since joining the program in 1985, Dedriel has dedicated her career to ensuring the safe handling, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. Dedriel's experience and commitment to improvement is such that she has become a nationally recognized expert in RCRA and inspection techniques. Her extensive technical background and effective communication skills have been instrumental in establishing credibility within the RCRA community of stakeholders.

She has consistently shown an exceptional ability to collaborate with other technical staff and represent the Agency to a wide range of outside parties. EPA inspectors interact with responsible parties, consultants, contractors, and states. Dedriel's approach is both professional and approachable. Her work ethic and style set the tone for the positive relationship EPA has with the RCRA community. Dedriel is a model civil servant and will leave a legacy of protecting human health and the environment.

United States Government  
Distinguished Public Safety Award



**William “Tom” Sweere**  
***Intelligence Research Specialist***  
***Department of Homeland Security***  
***Immigration Intelligence Watch Branch***

William “Tom” Sweere is an Intelligence Research Specialist within United States Citizenship and Immigration Service’s (USCIS) Immigration Intelligence Watch Branch (IIW). The IIW is a headquarters component of the Fraud and National Security (FDNS) Directorate dedicated to providing 24/7 access to immigration and intelligence information in response to current and emerging national security threats and high-profile events with a nexus to the U.S. immigration system. Tom joined USCIS/FDNS in 2019 as an Intelligence Research Specialist for the IIW. He continues to serve as the All-Source Intelligence Analyst Superintendent and Deputy Treaty Compliance Officer for the 139th Airlift Wing as a Drill Status Guardsman in the U.S. Airforce.

Tom is being recognized for serving as a focal point of success in launching daily operations, developing products, adapting to changing missions, and continuing operations in the IIW. His service and dedication to the branch bolsters the agency’s capabilities by providing relevant intelligence identifying criminal and national security threats that manipulate, abuse, and attempt to fraudulently gain USCIS benefits. In addition, Tom played a crucial role in addressing and eliminating several months of vetting backlogs regarding possible national security concerns. Through Tom’s diligence and thoroughness, the IIW identified and reported possible threats while simultaneously clearing other applicants and streamlining the immigration process.

United States Government  
Distinguished Technical Award



**Diana Czarnecki**  
***Industrial Hygienist***  
***General Services Administration***

Diane Czarnecki was educated as a biologist, but her career path took her into the environmental, health, and safety field, which included industrial hygiene. Industrial hygiene involves recognition, analysis, and protection of workers, as well as how to mitigate exposures. Diane is the sole industrial hygienist expert in GSA's Heartland Region and is responsible for a robust program to manage interior environmental contamination of facilities at GSA's Goodfellow Federal Center — a 24-building, 1.34 million usable-square-foot federal office complex on 65.5 acres in St. Louis, Missouri.

By far Diane's Herculean effort is her analysis and interpretation of scientific and technical results from recurring air, water and wipe sampling events. In 2019 alone, she analyzed and interpreted close to 150 reports. Within each of these reports is analysis from upwards of 30 sampling locations, which may then be tested for up to 6-8 contaminants. Therefore, a campus-wide sampling event might involve review of some 3,600 data points to look for results that exceed GSA Region 6's internal action levels and require further attention. After she reviews the data, she interprets the findings for a lay audience and writes a summary cover sheet to accompany the report in GSA's reading room. When the information is made publicly available, she fields inquiries from tenant agency employees and leaders. In 2019, she was the subject matter expert on more than 60 inquiries, including some from oversight bodies and news media.

The scope, importance and value of Diane's performance are immeasurable. She is always thinking and acting proactively and progressively. She pushed to adopt more protective guidelines in the region, demonstrating her integrity and grit as a public servant. As a female working in the scientific and technical field, Diane serves as an inspiration to women that Federal service is a level playing field where women are on the front line mitigating serious risks and serving as authorities and experts on highly technical and complex matters. She diligently and responsibly assesses, communicates and addresses any environmental concerns that could affect the well-being of 1,900 federal workers at the Goodfellow Federal Center.

United States Government  
Distinguished Trade/Craft Award



**Robert Hill**  
**Electrician**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

Mr. Robert Hill is the Lead Electrician for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. He is a Veteran himself, with service in the Missouri National Guard from 1990 through 1998. During this time, he supported operations throughout the world to include the Middle East, Europe, and South America. Mr. Hill was also called into action in the support of restoration efforts associated with the flooding in Missouri in 1993.

Mr. Hill started his career as an Electrician in 1994 here in the Kansas City area. After several years of learning his trade, he started his own small business before bringing his talents to the Kansas City VA Medical Center in 2013.

Mr. Hill's leadership and experience are an incredible asset to the facility. He is often called upon to lead teams, in both emergent and standard work actions. Mr. Hill understands and embodies the principals of High Reliability Operations, aiding the team in implementing this culture at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. His private sector experience enables him to effectively communicate with VA personnel and contracted entities, resulting in deliverables that truly meet the needs of the facility. His efforts aid the Medical Center in meeting the VA Mission, providing high quality healthcare to the Kansas City area veteran population.

Mr. Hill has 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. He enjoys most outdoor activities to include spending time with family, camping, hunting, and BBQing.