2018 Winners of the Prudential Productivity Awards

Five nominations from Florida State University have won 2018 Prudential Productivity Awards.

The annual program recognizes state employees’ work that significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services while saving money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. This year, cash and plaque awards will be presented at the Tallahassee Awards Ceremony at Florida State University’s Ruby Diamond Auditorium on June 5, for their award-winning solutions and productivity improvements for the state government.

The winning individuals and teams from Florida State University are:

**CASH WINNER**

**FSU Take 15**

*Award Winners: FSU Take 15 Team (Rick Burnette, Liesl Swoyer, Karen Laughlin, John Barnhill, Alice Wright, Joe O'Shea, Sara Hamon, Rose-May Frazier)*

*Nominator: Rick Burnette, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs*

*Savings Estimate: $85,975,000*

For several years, the university experienced a declining trend: Students were taking fewer classes each semester, causing unnecessary delays to students’ graduation and adding significant tuition, room and board, and other expenses to students and their families. National research suggested that for every year a student delays college graduation beyond four years, their tuition, loan, and opportunity costs from delayed income over their life total upwards of $150,000. Examining the historical data at FSU, it became clear that students who took at least 15 hours each semester—regardless of major, socioeconomic status, or high school performance—tended to receive higher grades and moved through to graduation more quickly. It appeared that there was an independent, positive effect of being more academically engaged with the university and spending more time on academic tasks. Despite this, a culture and expectation of taking only 12 credit hours had become increasingly entrenched within the university in recent years. It became clear that to shift behavior and help students graduate on-time, a comprehensive outreach, advising, and marketing campaign would be needed. Thus, the multi-year Take 15 effort was launched.

**PLAQUE WINNERS**

**Air Handler Replacement Program**

*Award Winners: MCRO Cost Reduction Team (Christina Baltermann, Anderson Poole, Clint Swearingen, James Stephens, Chad Cooper)*

*Nominator: James Stephens, Director, Facilities and Grounds Services*

*Cost Savings Estimate: $75,000*
After a review of maintenance practices and v-belt replacement program for the air handlers on the Florida State University campus, the team identified a way to reduce and cut the belt change frequency in half while improving reliability.

**Auxiliary AR and Billing**

*Award Winners:* FSU Auxiliary Accounting Team (Cassandra Rayne, Rashad James)

*Nominator:* Helen McCann, SRA Cost Analyst III, Sponsored Research Administration and Angela Rowe, Associate Director, Sponsored Research Administration

*Cost Savings Estimate:* $400,000

FSU Auxiliary Accounting streamlined the accounts receivable billing, processing, and revenue tracking of the university’s auxiliary enterprises through the implementation of functionality within the PeopleSoft Accounting System.

**Field Application System for Social Work Students**

*Award Winner:* May Bolden, IT Support Specialist, College of Social Work

*Nominator:* Craig Stanley, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Social Work

*Cost Savings Estimate:* $4,752

Due to limited financial resources that prohibited contracting with an outside vendor, May Bolden researched, designed, built, and implemented an innovative Field Application System for Social Work students pursuing field placements using the Fluid Review software licensed by the University.

**Lean Work Order Communications**

*Award Winners:* Lean Work Order Communications Team (Brian Fairhurst, Donna Trumbower, Chad Cooper, Ryan Porter, Jason Hosey, Ashley West, Kyle Knowles, Diane Burnette)

*Nominator:* Brian Fairhurst

*Savings Estimate:* $103,612

Faced with an increasing number of annual Work Orders (more than 36,000 in 2016), the first ever Facilities Lean Team was formed to better understand the respective roles of team members, streamline a complex process, improve customer service and reduce the average number of days to complete Work Orders by more than 70% in just 2 months.

Application information for the 2019 Prudential Productivity Awards competition will be announced to the University community as soon as it is received from Florida TaxWatch. For more information, visit [http://www.floridataxwatch.org/prudpa.aspx](http://www.floridataxwatch.org/prudpa.aspx) or contact FSU Agency Awards Coordinator, Janet Fryman at jfryman@fsu.edu or (850) 644-4579.