Florida State shines in annual productivity competition!

Two team entries from Florida State University have won 2015 Prudential Productivity Awards.

The annual program recognizes and rewards 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, the competition attracted over 500 nominations for innovations and productivity improvements for state government.

The winning Florida State achievements are detailed below:

PLAQUE WINNERS

FSU/UF Libraries
Achievement: FSU/UF Libraries Shared E-Book Project
Award Winners: Roy Ziegler, Steve Carrico, Trey Shelton, Aimee Barett, Michael Luesebrink, Apryl Price, Charles McElroy, Mary Ann O'Daniel
Nominator: Roy Ziegler

In the spring of 2011 Florida State University Libraries and the University of Florida Libraries initiated an e-book project to jointly purchase and license access to academic books. The two schools were already cooperating by using a print book acquisition plan based on a statewide book contract (authored by FSU in 2010). The contract provided each school with 20% discounts on print books, no shipping charges, and no cost to access the vendor's ordering database. [The savings on print books are not included in cost savings estimate associated with this nomination.] The new e-book project required an amendment to the existing contract and preserved all of the applicable discounts but would also allow both schools to share the access license thereby lowering the cost per book by an additional 50%. Even though saving money for the two institutions and the citizens of Florida was a high priority, the unprecedented activity was the level of cooperation between the two research libraries. The project began with both libraries agreeing on a set of mutually agreeable parameters. In the end English language books, distributed in the US, graduate student/professional readership level, comprehensive subject areas and e-book preferred were selected by subject area and collection development librarians. In a revolutionary departure, the e-books would not be purchased up front. Instead the bibliographic records with active links to full-text e-books were loaded by the Florida Virtual Campus/FLVC (previously Florida Center for Library Automation/FCLA) to appear in FSU's and UF's library online catalogs. Students and Faculty accessed individual books for free until the third full-text access triggered the purchase. The program ran for 3 years with 1,722 e-books purchased. Even though another 13,000 e-books were available in the FSU and UF online catalogs, they were never used enough to trigger purchases. [The savings for the e-books not bought are not included in the cost savings estimate associated with this nomination.] Over the
life of the project, which ended in June of 2014, FSU and UF libraries spent $236,196 = $137 per jointly licensed e-book or $68.50 per volume per institution. If both schools purchased the books separately (without using the statewide contract and amendment), cataloged and processed the books at each institution, the total costs for making the content available would near $500,000. The actual cost savings for both universities and the citizens of Florida = $253,102.

Ringling Center for the Arts
Achievement: Ringling Museum Volunteer Management System
Award Winners: Amanda LaForge, Hollie Corbitt, Erin Griswold, Ross Corona, Antoel Middlebrooks
Nominator: Cynthia Vickers-Clenney

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, The State Art Museum of Florida, has 577 active volunteers who contributed 68,572 hours fiscal year 2013/2014, a donated value of $1,477,041. Their time and volunteer assignments are critical to operations and visitor services. During a year-long project, Volunteer Services, Education, and Technology staff rolled out a technological solution to volunteer corps management streamlining time keeping, shift scheduling, communication, data management/reporting. Volgistics’ volunteer management system a secure database residing on off-site servers, is used to track hours, schedule, and communicate with volunteers. Non-technical staff were tasked with identifying data to be converted, creating conversion mapping scheme, verifying converted data accuracy and customizing screens and messaging. Touch screen kiosks were installed around the 66 acre campus. To gain volunteer “buy in”, training using PowerPoint, online tools, instruction and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) guides were developed. From January to April, 300 volunteers attended one of 22 formal sessions, or had individual training. Many took initiative to learn on their own. As of July, 100% of the corps use Volunteer Information Center; fondly referred to as VICy. Result: Ringling volunteers “clock in and out” via touch screens so supervisors and Security know who is on campus and in which museum venue. Volunteers have access on and off campus to important communication, personal data, and number of accrued hours worked during the year. Online tour scheduling by 124 docents is done from the comfort of home; previously a half-day long process held quarterly, an estimated time savings for them of 1984 hours per year. Management reporting is more accurate. No monthly paper timesheet entry saves staff 480 hours per year (.25 FTE). Best of all, volunteers are working more assignments/shifts as schedule openings are “at their fingertips” to sign up.

Application information for the 2016 Prudential Productivity Awards competition will be announced to the University community as soon as it is received. For more information, visit http://www.floridataxwatch.org/prudpax.aspx or contact FSU Agency Awards Coordinator, Sarah Hubbard at sehubbard@fsu.edu or (850) 644-4579.