



16th Annual Black History Month Celebration
Page 8



Aspiring Leaders Kicks Off
Page 12



International Women's Day
Page 13

APRIL 2017



What will happen to the State Office Building? Hint: Things are really going to change!

by John McKay



Now that everyone and everything is out of the State Office Building things are really going to start changing. The plans include lots of natural light, new electrical, plumbing, heating and elevators. Sounds like our 450 Columbus Boulevard building right? Nope. It's the future plans for the 165 Capitol Avenue State Office Building.

In January, DAS Commissioner Currey and Shane Mallory, Administrator of DAS' Leasing and Property Transfer Office, hosted a meeting at the State Office Building for the Hartford Building Owners and Managers Association. An overview of the plans for the renovation to the 165 Capitol Avenue State Office Building were discussed.

The first phase involves the demolition of the Buckingham Street garage. In its place will be a 900-plus parking garage which will actually have retail space on the Washington Street side of the building. Earlier versions of the plans for the garage included a walking bridge from the parking structure to the State Office Building but it was very cost prohibitive.



The outside, physical look of the State Office Building will not change much. Because the building is located within a historic district of Hartford, the plan is to make few exterior changes to the building. However, new energy efficient windows will be installed and all 700 air conditioning window units will be removed, giving the building a more consistent look to when it was originally constructed in 1931.

The biggest exterior change will be the park-like setting outside the east entrance. "It will be about the size of a football field," said Architect Tony Amenta from the architectural firm Amenta Emma of Hartford. There will be trees, bushes and pathways gradually sloping up to the building to the new lobby entrance. Other exterior features will freshen up the surrounding grounds while at the same time making the building ADA accessible.



DAS Commissioner Currey speaks to the Building Owners and Managers Association and views a PowerPoint presentation with DAS' Shane Mallory regarding the future renovations to the State Office Building.

For anyone with a sentimental attachment to the building, there are some things that won't change. The marble hallway on the first floor and the marble stairways will remain intact. The metal decoration on the windows will also remain along with a few other historic details to the building. Otherwise the interior of the building will be gutted to make way for a much more efficient use of space for the incoming occupants. Better floor plan layouts, centralized locations of mechanical equipment will be more centralized and a long overdue renovation will give the old State Office Building a very modern look and feel on the inside.

DAS' Division of Construction Services project manager Mike Milne said, "I've

worked in the State Office Building for over 20 years and I am excited to see the changes. This building is long overdue for some TLC and I'm excited to see the finished product."

Once completed, the building will be occupied by the State's Constitutional officers. The tentative date for occupancy is 2019. The new occupants will be the Attorney General's Office, the Treasurer's Office, Office of the Secretary of State and the Office of the State Comptroller.

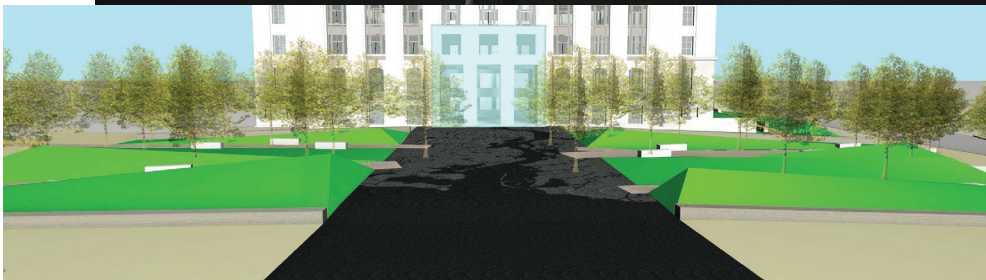
"It's important to keep in mind that we will be taking these offices out of office space the state is currently leasing, and moving them into a state owned building," said DAS Commissioner Currey. "Why pay rent when you already own a building?"



Above: The architect rendering of the future state office building at 165 Capitol Avenue.

Right: Rendering of the new Buckingham garage

Below: Rendering of the new east entrance to the State Office Building.



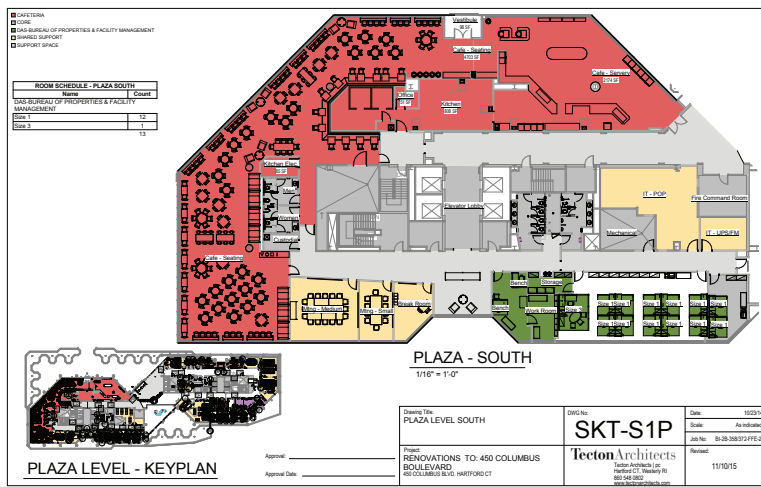
In the Event of an Emergency....

by Nina Ritson

All of the tenants of 450 Columbus Boulevard attended mandatory fire evacuation safety training presented by Ray Philbrick, Statewide Security and Bill Abbott, State Fire Marshal. The fire evacuation and safety training series began on January 5 and was held over a series of 12 sessions to give employees a wide range of date and time options. Also credited for the presentations were Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi, Director of Facilities Management Doug Moore and Senior Property Manager Brian Nicknair, from our building management firm, Konover.

“This is a five phase program,” said Ray Philbrick as he went on to describe the process, “Phase one is the training of security officers; phase two is the training of state employees; phase three is meeting with state agency fire captains; phase four is a pre-announced fire drill and phase five is an unannounced fire drill.”

He then introduced State Fire Marshal Bill Abbott, a 25-year Hartford Fire Department veteran, who explained what happens when fire or smoke is detected in the building. “The construction of this building is cement slabs with a two-hour fire rating between floors. A stair pressurization system keeps smoke out of the stairwell. A smoke exhaust/pressurization



system on each floor will also kick in pressurizing the two floors above and one floor below the incident floor while the incident floor goes into exhaust to form an envelope. This building has a full sprinkler system and the garage beneath the building has a dry sprinkler system. The emergency generator is run weekly to verify it is operating properly. The generator supplies the emergency power for the buildings life safety systems. The fire alarm master box system automatically sends a signal to the Hartford Fire Department - with a four-minute dispatch time. The furthest fire house is one mile and the closest is ½ mile from 450 Columbus Boulevard. The fire alarm system device which is activated identifies exactly where the alarm signal came from.” Ray then said, “When the alarm is activated the fire department takes control of the building, evacuating the initial floors identified and the two floors above and one below.”

At this time floor wardens would report to the floors and direct the descent of employees through the stairwell. The evacuation plan is as follows: From Stairwell D go to the Plaza level, leave the building from the main lobby and cross the bridge to meet at the large stone clock tower. From Stairwell E go to the G3 street level, then go to Charles Street (one way road behind the building) walk to the surface parking lot under the highway. From Stairwell F go to the Plaza, then go to the G3 level and then to Charles Street and the surface parking lot. From the South Tower in Stairwell A go to G3, then Charles Street and South to Hartford Steam Boiler. From Stairwell B go to the Plaza then to the Stone Clock tower. Swipe access cards will get you into any floor from the stairwell. Do not use the elevators although they may appear to be operating because the fire department can/will call all the cars down.

Everyone must remain at the designated meeting area until told otherwise. When the alarm goes off on any floor all incoming traffic will be stopped as well as the garage traffic. The north and south loading docks will be closed!

The following security numbers should be kept at your desk:

Security 5555
Plaza Security: (860) 466-4270
G-3 Security (860) 466-4269.
 Stay tuned for an unannounced fire drill!



Above: (Left) Ray Philbrick, Director of Safety and Security and Bill Abbott (right) address the crowd.

Right: Fire safety attendees

Below: Bill Abbott, State Fire Marshal



MAX Talk with Chief State Architect David Barkin

by John McKay



DAS' David Barkin, our Chief Architect was asked by the Society for Marketing Professional Services Connecticut Chapter (SMPS CT) to attend and deliver a MAX Talk (similar to a Ted Talk) about his involvement with the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in New Haven.

When the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in New Haven was proposed there were two distinct paths it could have followed: that of an elevated roadway or a signature bridge.

Getting involved with a number of groups to advocate for a signature bridge and changing the mindset of the establishment to see the opportunity to create a signature bridge for the area was a daunting task, but something David felt passionate about.

In his MAX Talk, David spoke about this love of bridges and large public works, and, if you have a vision and advocate that vision, successful and inspiring results can be achieved.

“Through persistence and having the right knowledge base, I think I, along with others, was able to make a significant contribution to a now iconic landmark here in Connecticut,” said David. “And now every time I cross the bridge, and more importantly every time my son crosses the bridge, he’ll know that his father had the drive and passion to make our corner of Connecticut a little bit better.”

In 2016 the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge won the grand prize of the America’s Transportation Awards competition.

“This spectacular new addition to New Haven’s skyline is one of the largest projects in the Connecticut DOT’s history. And it was delivered ahead of schedule and on budget, improving safety, relieving congestion and enhancing travel options for tens of thousands of daily commuters,” said Bud Wright, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials executive director.

The \$554 million, Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge spans 4,200 feet over the Quinnipiac River, connecting 140,000 vehicles daily to several major Interstates and the Gateway Terminal one of the busiest intermodal ports in the country.

Photo by TimeFrozen Photography

Electric Boat taps into local schools for new workers by John McKay

WTNH Channel 8 ran a news story in January on the new Three Rivers Community College welding lab at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton.

It's a ten week program through the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative which trains welders and other workers for local companies like General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton.

This facility is a critical component of our state's economic development and was built by DAS' Construction Services.

In June 2016, the Ella Grasso Technical High School in Groton along with the DAS Division of Construction Services held a ribbon cutting event for the new Welding Shop. DAS' Dennis Tovey, was the project manager.

The new welding shop required a \$1.7 million investment providing Grasso Tech students with 4,000 square feet of updated workspace featuring 29 welding booths, cutting and grinding stations, fabrication tables and a host of 21 century power equipment.

Congressman Joe Courtney who helped secure the federal grant which pays for the program says "Total hiring in Connecticut is projected to be about 1,350 in trades, design and engineering and support positions. EB expects to grow from 14,000 to 18,000 by 2030."

"This is what we don't always see," said Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi. "You get so involved in the square footage of a building, its construction, and its requirements. What I love is seeing what the building was meant to do. It's educating people and giving them a skill they can use for the rest of their lives. And not just a skill, but a career with a good paying job here in Connecticut."

16th Annual Black History Month Celebration

by Nina Ritson

On Tuesday, February 28, the 16th Annual Black History Month celebration was again hosted by the State Department of Education and celebrated at an all new venue, the large plaza level conference room in the North building at 450 Columbus Boulevard.

This year's event was slightly abbreviated from previous years, but opened with Mary Taylor's singing of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," then a powerful performance titled "Libation" by FriendZ World Music. Rhythmic African drums filled the room with dance performances by young women who invited members of the audience to join them – and they did! "Dance is an offering – the pouring of libation that frees life" explained one of the dancers.

State Department of Education's Barbara Brown offered a moment of silence and the presentations began with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert Klee who humbly noted, "It's tough to go next after that wonderful performance!" He spoke about celebrating and understanding the civil rights struggles of the past and how we got to where we are today. Department of Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin Sullivan quoted verses from the poem by Maya Angelou 'Still I Rise'.

Jason Bowsza of the Department of Agriculture spoke on behalf of Commissioner Reviczky and reminded us that "you must always treat one another with kindness and respect."

Melody Currey, Commissioner of DAS, felt this was "a great opportunity for us all to come together to celebrate the advancement of people

continued next page

*Top: Commissioner Currey welcomes attendees at the 16th Annual Black History Month Celebration
Left: FriendZ World Music sends drum music throughout the Plaza level*

Next Page: Dancers from the same group perform Libation or The Offering



and the ‘Godmother of Civil Rights, Dorothy Height.’ She added, “I am distressed with the situation in Washington, D.C. and the only way to overcome this is to rise up again to make great strides.”

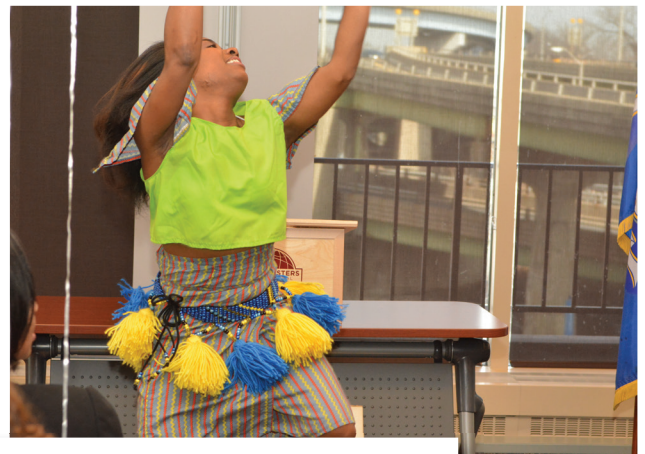
Commissioner Wentzel of the State Department of Education (SDE) said, “this is not just Black History Month – this is all year! Through the power of education we can chip away at the racial barriers and give every child in Connecticut a chance. Now is the time to reflect on how far we have come and how much farther we have to live up to the American dream. We are a nation established on the principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity. Although doors were slammed in her life, Dorothy Height opened door after door for sisterhood, brotherhood and peoplehood. Each step she took brought her all the way to the Whitehouse to be seated next to President Barack Obama at his inauguration. Keep fighting the good fight.”

With that the Black History Month United States Post Office stamp was unveiled for 2017 – Dorothy Height by Mary Taylor and Angela Berry of SDE.

Following the stamp unveiling, three dynamic speakers shared their stories with the group. Joelle Murchison, Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Connecticut echoed the sentiment that Black History Month and diversity is 365 days a year. “Often the things you don’t know and what you don’t know that you don’t know are what cause you the most trouble.” She then said, “At UConn our students come from all over but we still do not experience Cultural competence or the ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds.”

We then heard from Justin Coleman, a 28-year old African-American Hartford resident who graduated from Rutgers with a Bachelor of Science in the field of Finance, then his Masters of Business Administration at University of Hartford, Barney School of Business. He recited a poem he wrote.

Anna Blanding, principal of the Pillner Group, LLC, a firm providing investment and strategic services to foundations and non-profits spoke about her passion -





economic opportunity - the access to capital. She gave the story of her great grandparents Frances and George who in 1855 migrated to Arkansas as newly freed slaves to purchase 200 acres and run a family farm. Because her great-grandmother could not read when she was approached with what was described as a wonderful offer for her parcel she signed the "X" on the dotted line and sold her home and land for pennies on the dollar. She landed on her feet, however, and with that money went farther west to purchase 450 acres in Oklahoma and set up the homestead that Anna actually grew up on as it is still in the family. She spoke about the differences between races when it comes to wealth with Connecticut actually being more staggering due to the values of real estate and income and pay inequities. "I had the opportunity to meet Dorothy Height a few years back and although she was 97 and feeble she was still feisty. Money really does make the world go round – don't be afraid to explore your options."



Special thanks to the State Department of Education for hosting this event and to the team from all the agencies now residing in 450 Columbus Boulevard: Ayesha Clarke, Katara Jones, Ahmed Haji, Noemi Perry, Erick Siu, Marjorie Terry, Penny Potter, Griselle Hernandez, Marcia Kilpatrick, Albert Higuera, Maira Rosario, Adelyana Reyes-Castillo, Barbara Brown, Mary Taylor, Angela Berry, Rosalyn Thorpe, Maxine Lewis and Colleen Carter for a job very well done even given the challenges of the recent moves."



That is team work!

Clockwise above: Barbara Brown from SDE; DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee; DRS Commissioner Kevin Sullivan; Jason Bowsza, Department of Agriculture; SDE Commissioner Dianna Wentzell.

Clockwise next page: DCP Commissioner Harris; guest speaker Anna Blanding; Committee members prepare the luncheon, a vendor displays their wares, guest speaker Justin K. Coleman; guest speaker Joelle A. Murchison; Mary Taylor and Angela Berry close the program.





Aspiring Leaders Kicks Off!

by Nina Ritson



Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman joined Commissioner Currey and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Correction, Cheryl Cepelak (who also happens to be a former DAS employee) on March 9 to welcome the 8th cohort of Aspiring Leaders in the DOT training room in Rocky Hill.

For the next 11 weeks this gathering of managers will meet one day per week to learn strategic planning skills, complete the Meyers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and Blanchard Situational Leadership assessment tools, learn more about process improvement and project management. In the end they will apply everything they have learned to a capstone project to be presented at graduation and implemented in their agencies.

Lt. Governor Wyman energized the crowd by sharing stories of leadership experiences and her journey from being an x-ray technician to the Lt. Governor of the State of Connecticut. "First I want to thank you because you are the unsung heroes of state government and as government employees I am sure you never hear that," she said, "you could have chosen to just stay at your jobs but you are here – eager to learn and do more! Be proud of the work you are doing, get involved at your local level and speak up-speak out!"



Commissioner Currey reported that after meeting recently with the Board from the Management Advisory Council (MAC) she is happy to say that DAS is going to continue this program. "There were 29 candidates for this session and to date we have graduated 158 managers from 23 different agencies over nine years. You are here because your agency has made the commitment to invest in you as a representative of your agency. Keep a positive attitude and people will gravitate to you. Gather all you can from the network you build!



*Top: Lt Governor Nancy Wyman opens the training with tales of her early career
Middle: Commissioner Currey speaks of the difficult job managers face today
Bottom: Facilitator Peggy Zabawar covers the course prospectus and (left) Deputy Commissioner and former DAS manager Cheryl Cepelak joined the team.*

International Women's Day March 7, 2017

From a Press Release on March 7, 2017



In honor of International Women's Day, women working in state government were invited to the Capitol for a photograph with the Governor and Lt. Governor.

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman released the following statements regarding International Women's Day:

Governor Malloy said, "Investing in the next generation of women leaders must continue to be our collective priority. Listening to and valuing women's voices in our state has never been more important. Time and time again, these voices have resulted in meaningful policy

changes that benefit all families in our state – from raising the minimum wage, to guaranteeing paid sick leave, to ending discriminatory pay secrecy policies.

"While Connecticut has a rich tradition of equality and leading the nation on issues impacting women, the fact remains that there is still much more we can – and should – do. Promoting gender diversity in my cabinet has been a priority since day one – and the results speak volumes. Let me be clear – Connecticut's state government would not function without the contributions of women serving at every level, including many of the most senior roles in my administration. Negotiating historic economic development agreements, regulating complex industries, ensuring the welfare and education of our children, protecting our public safety – all of these essential governmental functions, among many others, are accomplished with women at the helm in Connecticut. Today, and every day, I proudly stand with the women of Connecticut."

Lt. Governor Wyman said, "Today I join women around the world who are fighting for equality for women. Equal pay and equal representation at every level of government, science, education, and in every economic sector benefits all people. Access to information and healthcare is necessary for caring for our caretakers. Access to academic and professional opportunity creates a diverse workforce, lifts families out of poverty, and inspires the next generation. These, and other issues, are at the forefront of discussion today especially, but we are fighting to ensure they remain a priority all year long. We have hard work ahead of us, but we have great minds and fierce women – and men – with us, and a generation of girls behind us."



Top: Governor Malloy is joined by many women for this photo op at the State Capitol on March 7.

Left: DAS was represented by (from left to right) Debra Arrieta, Daria Cirish, Jean Michael, Easha Canada, Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone, Commissioner Melody Currey, Erin Choquette, Carol Wilson, Alicia Nunez and JoAnn Figueirido.

People are talking..... by Cindy Rusczyk

Susan Martin wrote to CIO Mark Raymond to express her appreciation of the **BEST Production Control Staff**, "I wanted to take a moment to recognize two of your staff members. We are in the midst of testing for multiple Go Lives in a short period of time. As you may remember from your Core-CT days, this means many test environments running batches using multiple ESP agents – several per night, with each simulating different days of our pay cycles. Throughout this process, **Dan Martineau** and **Paul O'Flaherty** have been outstanding in their support. Their responsiveness and accuracy has helped us to meet critical project timelines, and is greatly appreciated. We literally could not do this without them."

Each issue we publish letters of praise that we have received about DAS employees going above and beyond. If you have received great service or would like to write about a DAS employee going the extra mile, email Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!

Sheri DeVaux from BEST "wants to thank SEOC Liaison Lead **David Geick** for facilitating the two training sessions that were recently held for DAS SEOC Liaisons at the State EOC."

Cheryl Kanaple of the Appellate Court of Hartford wrote this to **Angela Fuggetta** of DAS Central Mail and Courier, "As you know, I am retiring effective April 1. I want to thank you for the outstanding job you have done for the Appellate Court. We could always count on you to be at our court every day, on time, and to never leave anything behind, no matter how large or heavy it was, and to always have a smile on your face."

Heart on the River

For all those fellows out there who completely forgot what day February 14 was this year, they may have been reminded by this natural phenomenon that occurred just in time for Valentine's Day. Outside our window in the bitter cold river - the ice broke away to reveal a perfectly heart shaped opening of water in the frozen river.

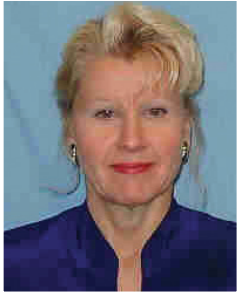
The heart was visible for days.



American Cancer Society Daffodil Days

The DAS Daffodil Days fundraiser for the American Cancer Society was another success this year. Organized by DAS Procurement's Linda LoSchiavo, the event raised \$940 with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

Thanks so much to all those that purchased daffodils and/or donated daffodils to cancer patients in local hospitals and thanks to Julie Kozikis for helping with the donations at BEST. Thank you, Linda, for chairing this event once again this year!



Diane Mazar-Roberts



Gary Thorstenson



Mark D'Aloisio



Jose Rivera



Wayne Thorpe



Germain Blais



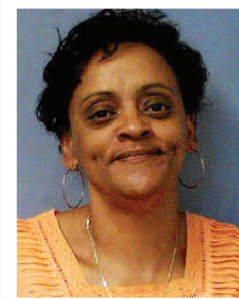
Julie Kozikis



Brenda Richter



Carmelle McArdle



Debra Batiste



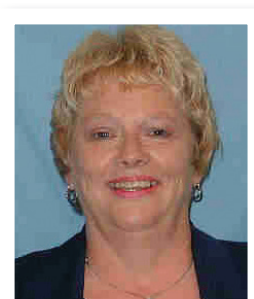
Thomas Caneschi



Daniel Roman



Carolyn Koloseus



V. Jean Michael



Susan Miller



Ella M. Miller



Richard Omohundro

COMINGS and GOINGS

RETIREMENTS

Diane Mazar-Roberts – February
Gary Thorstenson – DCS – February
Mark D'Aloisio – BEST – February
Jose Rivera – Fleet – March
Wayne Thorpe – DCS – April
Germain Blais – BEST – April
Julie Kozikis – BEST – April
Brenda Richter – BEST - April
Carmelle McArdle – BEST – April
Debra Batiste – Properties & Facilities Management – April
Thomas Caneschi – Fleet – April
Daniel Roman – Fleet – April
Carolyn Koloseus – Business Office - April
V. Jean Michael – Business Office – April
Susan Miller – BEST – April
Ella M. Miller – Collection Services – April
Richard Omohundro – BEST – April

NEW EMPLOYEES

Karen Gordon – Collection Services – January
Michael Trejo – BEST – January
Phillip Nasetta – BEST - January
Richard Frey – DCS Elevators - February
William Hughes – BEST – February
Scott Rivkin – Workers' Comp – February
Jeremy Kushin – SHRM – March
Marcus Campbell – Collection Services – March
Mark Plourd – Collection Services – March
Meghan Follert – Collection Services – March
Norma Zevallos-Olaechea – Collection Services - March
Marie House – Business Office - March
Shatia Miller – Collection Services - March
Justin Kilicollum – BEST - March



Karen Gordon



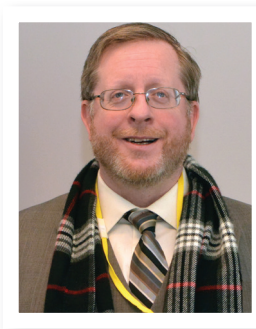
Michael Trejo



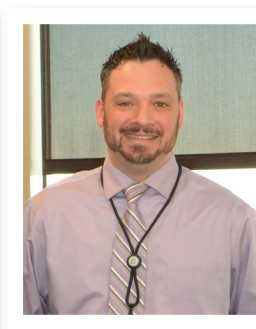
Phillip Nasetta



Richard Frey



William Hughes



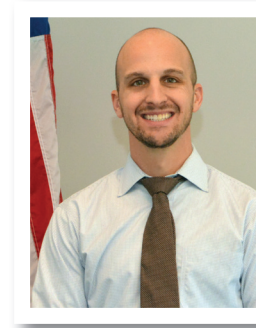
Scott Rivkin



Jeremy Kushin



Marcus Campbell



Mark Plourd



Meghan Follert



Norma
Zevallos-Olaechea



Marie House



Shatia Miller



Justin Kilicollum

Hello to Our New Employees



Clockwise with Commissioner Currey
Michael Trejo
Richard Frey
William Hughes and Scott Rivken
Phillip Nasetta
Karen Gordon



Clockwise with Commissioner Currey
Jeremy Kushin and Marcus Campbell

Mark Plourd, Norma Zehallos-Olaechea and
Meghan Follert

Justin Kicollum, Marie House and Shatia Miller



A Fond Farewell To Our Recent DAS Retirees!!



Clockwise with Commissioner Currey
 Diane Mazar-Roberts
 Gary Thorstenson
 Deb Batiste
 Loretta Miller
 Wayne Thorpe with John Cavacas and with Team C members
 Carmelle McArdle, Julie Kozikis, Germain Blais, Brenda
 Richter, and Mark Raymond

A Fun Send-off to Director Jean Michael



...and to Carolyn Koloseus





In Memoriam



*Ed Burke
Retired
DAS Statewide Human Resources
March 27, 2017*