

SOUNDINGS



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Student of the Year
Dekenzie Dixon

Dekenzie, a civil engineering student attending Wayne State University, is a student trainee in the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office. Dekenzie's impact to the H&H office can best be described using one word "automation." Dekenzie has great macro coding skills when it comes to data transfer or downloading information.



Innovator of the Year
Bryan Melby

Bryan created a user friendly standard operating procedure on the basics of how to use Bentley's Inroads, a software program that Engineering and Construction Office uses heavily to complete its mission. Having several staff members trained will allow the execution of multiple projects at once.



Technical Employee of the Year
Justin Proulx

Justin is highly respected; his honesty, integrity and "can do" attitude coupled with professional competence generates immediate confidence from contractors, superiors and peers. His exceptional skill and competence were continually on display while leading multiple personnel in his role as lead Quality Control Inspector.



Administrative Employee of the Year
Valerie Lemons

Val's successful critical contributions for the district are mostly behind the scenes. She ensures that senior leader's travel plans are always up-to-date even with constant changes occurring prior to, or during travel. Val routinely takes care of a large volume of administrative tasks to free up Senior Leaders to tackle critical district issues.



Maintainer of the Year
Daniel J. Bonacorsi

Congratulations goes out to Daniel J. Bonacorsi, as the Maintainer of the Year. Dan is a huge asset to the Detroit Area Office and fills many voids when needed. Dan's many talents extend far beyond his mechanical expertise, aids our office and the USACE mission as a whole.



Professional Specialist of the Year
Michelle Booker

Michelle's long-standing record of service to the District in maintaining the financial management records for program execution has been commendable. Her support in the effective execution of cost share control has been critical to maintaining an accurate cost accounting for the multitude of cost share records associated with the District's civil works program.



Planner of the Year

Adam Fox

In 2014, Adam provided leadership at the project level by keeping three projects moving forward that were key to the District's current planning program and future construction program. These are the first projects Detroit has going through the SMART planning process and Adam's knowledge, connections and communications have been effective with the success of those projects.



Engineer of the Year

Adam Wagner

Adam has been exemplary in helping the District meet its mission requirements to provide excellent engineering and construction services to our customers. In addition to being a key designer in the successful execution of our mission critical dredging program, he was also a key team leader for the planning and design of the 21st Avenue pilot project. Adam exhibits exceptional personal leadership traits that ensure mission success.



Leader of the Year

Jim Tapp

Jim constantly balances stakeholder's needs within the limits of Operations and Technical Services authorization and guidelines. As chief of Technical Services he makes sure that all solutions are environmentally sustainable, economical, and technically sound.



Safety Professional of the Year

Michael A. Krzycki

Mike's People skills are key to his success as a Safety Officer. His ability to intervene and correct a potentially unsafe situation while at the same time teaching and/or providing a solution has earned him the respect of both the workforce and management of the Soo Area Office. The trust and respect that he has earned allow him to be extremely effective at implementing a safety program in the face of continual change.

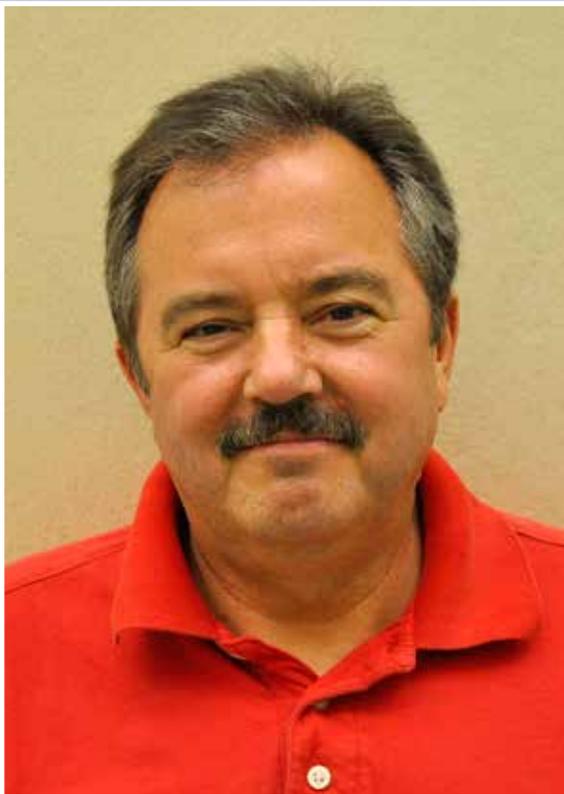


Team of the Year

Menomonee River Ecosystem Restoration Project Management Team

This project delivery team effectively stepped up at the eleventh hour to move forward the project, to delist the Menomonee River in the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern, before the looming deadline. This project, the last Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project awarded in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for fiscal year 2014, successfully used up end-of-year division funds, therefore creating a positive image of the division to the EPA. Missing in picture: Luke Vermeulen, Hal Harrington, Glenn Spence & Julie Udell

Distinguished Civilians



Richard V. Delestowicz

Rick was a hydrographic single-beam sonar surveyor at the Detroit Area Office for more than 25 years. Through Rick's tenure at the DAO he was able to aid in performing hydro survey operations more efficiently. Rick helped champion the communication and coordination of aligning all of Detroit District's survey sections with each other. Communications of the hydro processes throughout offices is still essential in providing consistent/quality surveys across the district's boundaries. His actions, to this day, ensure that the district survey mission is met and USACE's reputation is upheld. Rick is proud of the legacy he has built throughout the years and still on occasion passes on his valuable knowledge of surveying and projects by answering technical questions, providing intimate knowledge of projects to current surveyors, providing lessons learned to the current hydrographic survey section and project engineers, and providing training.

Rick was an exemplary employee and his efforts reflect great credit upon himself, the Detroit District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “



Gary A. O'Keefe

Gary completed more than 32 years of federal service with the Corps. During this time Gary managed several key studies including the Fort Wayne Flood Control project, the divestment of the Fox River locks to the State of Wisconsin, and the coordination and design of several Minnesota Harbor Projects. During his tenure with the Corps Gary served as Chief of the Planning Office, the Chief of Construction Division, Gulf Region South, Iraq, and then finally retiring as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management and Chief of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. Before his retirement Gary took over the management of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study for the division. Gary made significant progress in organizing this complex and controversial study to address the threat of movement of invasive species between two major drainage basins. Gary worked tirelessly, honestly and with integrity to guide the district to a level of continued success.

Gary's dedication and tenacity reflect great credit upon himself, the Detroit District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”