

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Classified

Jobs

Cars

Real Estate

Hc

34°F

Traffic | Weather

News	Announcements	Sports	Opinion	Living	Entertainment	Outdoors	Multimedia	Shop	Cl
------	---------------	--------	---------	--------	---------------	----------	------------	------	----

Welcome **Guest**
 register | log in | e-mail news

Search TheOlympian.com Web Search powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH



News : » State Government : » State Workers
 Published February 18, 2008

[Comments](#) [Print](#) [email](#) [Subscribe](#) [Digg it](#) [del.icio.u](#)

Workers recognized for saving state big bucks

The Olympian

State government has a reputation for spending a lot of money, but some of its workers know how to save money, too.

Countrywide
HOME LOANS

Lisa Nonamaker Shelley Zeigler Alicia Miller

Thirty-two state employees were recently recognized for saving the state \$847,494 last year.

Money-saving ideas included purchasing bins and doing their own recycling, turning old banners into consumer products such as purses, and eliminating needless certified mailings.

As for the agencies, the Department of Transportation saved the

state more than \$343,995 in 2007 through the Employee Suggestion and Teamwork Incentive program. It received the top saving agency award.

Through the Productivity Board, a program in the Secretary of State's Office, state employees put money-saving ideas to work to help streamline government.

Each year the Innovation in State Government Awards ceremony recognizes state employees who submit cost-saving ideas. Since its inception in 1983, state employees have saved the state more than \$53 million in first-year savings alone.

"Undoubtedly, state employees are the crux to the success of this program," Secretary of State Sam Reed said in a news release. "Their innovation and creativity have saved the state millions in taxpayer dollars in just 25 years."

Winners include:

- **Tacoma Narrows Bridge TIP team:** The six Department of Transportation

MOST VIEWED ARTICLES

Witness speaks about concert arrest, riot
 Letters to the editor Feb. 19
 Meteor seen across wide swath of Pacific Northwest
 Flu season late but flourishing in state
 Huckabee wins W.Va. GOP convention

Join the Reader Network

Do you want The Olympian to keep you in mind when we canvass the community for opinions?
 Click here and sign up with our Reader Network to offer your view.

employees developed a cost-effective and creative solution to maintain and paint the suspender cables that hold up the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The old method required a worker to scrape and paint the cables by hand. The new method uses a suspender line tool to carefully guide over the cables remotely, which chips the paint off as it rolls along the cables. The Tacoma Narrows Bridge Maintenance team saved the state more than \$224,000.

- **Morgan, Support Enforcement Office** from the Department of Social & Health Services, suggested that the agency appoint field coordinators to work with county treasurer offices to get child support paid from an unclaimed surplus from the forfeiture of property. That suggestion resulted in \$102,737 in savings.

- **Dean Lau**, a liquor license specialist with the Liquor Control Board, suggested eliminating needless certified mailings and return receipt requested, which saved \$59,940 in the first year.

- **Reginald D. Radliff**, an IC-2 at Western State Hospital, suggested that the agency purchase its own recycling bins and drop its recycling contract. That suggestion allowed the hospital to sell its recyclables at a higher price, which generated \$17,992 in revenue during the first year.

- **Peter Carris**, a forestry- natural resources manager with the Department of Parks and Recreation suggested that Spanish lessons be offered to staff to better handle communications between staff and visitors. The agency now offers employees Spanish lessons that have helped to address the needs of its diverse customers.

- **Glenda Moore**, a customer services specialist with the Department of Health, handled many phone calls from people who did not speak English. Moore suggested the agency contract with Language Line Services.

- **Irene Ritchie**, a supply officer with the Washington State Lottery Commission, suggested the agency recycle old banners through an independent company that would turn them into consumer products such as purses, wallets and eyeglass cases.

For more information about the Productivity Board, go to www.sec.state.wa.gov/productivityboard.

[Like Games? Play Now Free -](#)

RealArcade gives you 500+ games to try free.
realarcade.com

Ads by Yahoo!



Site Index

