



News Release

State employees save more than half a million dollars in 2005

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OLYMPIA ... Secretary of State Sam Reed today commended public employees for saving state government \$511,005 dollars in 2005.

Reed awarded some 29 employees for their role in making government more efficient through the state Productivity Board, a program under the Office of Secretary of State.

Each year the *Innovation in State Government Awards* ceremony recognizes government employees who submit cost-saving ideas.

Through the Productivity Board, public employees put their innovative, money-saving ideas to work to help streamline government.

"I applaud these outstanding, state workers who cut waste and advance customer service" said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "These hardworking, frontline employees know best how to improve state government."

Employees recognized at the Innovation in State Government Awards ceremony include:

Suggestions with the greatest savings

- Washington State Patrol trooper, David Wilbur, suggested the agency change the oil in pursuit vehicles every 5,000 miles instead of every 3,000. By changing this practice, the agency will save **\$96,000** a year.
- Department of Corrections employee, Ron Dixon, suggested by-passing the filter system on the hydro stripper and use fresh water only. The hydro stripper uses high pressure water to remove old sheeting from aluminum road signs. Water tests showed the waste water was non-toxic and as a result the agency did not have to pay the monthly toxic water disposal fees. The Department saved **\$65,371** in the first year.
- Department of Social and Health Services employee, David Hess, suggested the agency utilize Western State Hospital's electric shop to perform the annual "full load" tests on generators instead of using an outside vendor. Implementing this change saved **\$16,000** in the first year.
- Liquor Control Board employee, Aric Norton suggested the agency implement a 1-800 number for long distance laptop users. This change saved the agency **\$11,726** in the first year.
- Office of the Secretary of State employee, John Jalo discovered that a contracted agent was issuing invoices based on estimated copy counts and then would re-bill on actual counts. The agent would credit the agency's account but not notify of the credit itself. Further research indicated incorrect meter readings and maintenance rates were issued by mistake. By tracking these finding, it saved the agency **\$7,400**.

Learn more about the Productivity Board at www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard