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## **Department of General Services Bureau of Publications Honored with Governor's Awards for Excellence**

**Harrisburg, PA** – State General Services Secretary Curt Topper today announced that Governor Tom Wolf recognized eight Department of General Services Bureau of Publications employees with the Governor's Awards for Excellence and praised them for their mail optimization efforts that have resulted in a \$2 million savings to the commonwealth to date.

The awards recognize commonwealth employees for exemplary job performance or service that reflects initiative, leadership, innovation and increased efficiency. A total of 37 employees received awards for 2016.

"The employees being recognized today have gone above and beyond their job requirements to provide outstanding service and make government more responsive and effective," said Governor Wolf. "Their accomplishments are truly exemplary and inspiring. We are fortunate to have such outstanding public servants working for the people of Pennsylvania."

"Innovation is about straying from the beaten path and sweating the details in order to achieve success," Topper said. "That is the approach the DGS Bureau of Publications took in determining significant savings could be realized by performing mail pre-sort operations in-house."

Department of General Services Bureau of Publications staff: Jane Andrzejewski, Steve Calkins, Marcie Carr, Jeff Gensemer, David McCloskey, Ryan McHugh, Robert Minium and Elizabeth Schehr were recognized for their transformation of the commonwealth's mail presort process.

By consolidating presort operations in-house, this GO-TIME project has reduced state agency costs by two-thirds. Mail collection and delivery are now faster and more efficient and more than \$2 million in savings has been achieved since the initiative began in November of 2015.

Presorting mail, or grouping mail by ZIP Code, results in significantly discounted postage over first-class postage prices.

The transformation involved solving the challenge of coordinating mail collection and delivery for 35 state government agencies, boards and commissions, in addition to the purchase of equipment to handle the sorting of envelopes and larger flat mail pieces.

"The beauty of this effort is that we've generated cost savings for taxpayers and achieved productivity gains for agencies, without the need for additional staff," Topper noted. "Now we are

looking to further our savings and build on our success in the future by processing incoming mail as well.

“To receive the Governor’s Awards for Excellence is truly an honor that recognizes the hard work and contributions our employees are making to make state government better. They truly represent what can be accomplished when we all work towards making ours “A Government That Works.”

Thirty state agencies submitted a total of 82 nominations prepared by their employees, with five individual and four group nominations selected as winners for this year’s awards.

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