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JULY 2014

# DAS TIMES

## Green Light on Litchfield County Courthouse *by John McKay*



Governor Malloy announced in late May that the State Bond Commission approved the final funding elements necessary for the new Litchfield County Courthouse project to commence in Torrington.

The Judicial Branch has been working to construct a new courthouse for the Litchfield Judicial District for nearly 40 years. The existing courthouse facilities in that district total about 39,000 square feet distributed over four locations. For a variety of reasons, a number of court cases must be reassigned to other district courthouses due to the inability of the current facilities to effectively serve the Litchfield District.

This project will feature the consolidation and construction of a new 174,000 square foot Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse on Field Street in Torrington. The new courthouse will house Civil, Criminal, Family and Juvenile Courts. Eight courtrooms, hearing rooms, judge's chambers and court support services will be included in the new facility. Additionally, 384 parking spaces will be provided onsite to accommodate current and future needs for visitors, judges and staff.

This project will create or retain approximately 1,424 construction related jobs with a total project cost of more than \$81 million.

“Though it’s taken more than a generation, I’m proud that we could move this project forward and begin the necessary work of building a twenty-first century courthouse,” Governor Malloy said. “By consolidating operations into one facility, we can save taxpayers time and make operations more

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Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Donald J. DeFronzo  
Commissioner

Jeffrey Beckham  
Staff Counsel/  
Director of Communications

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efficient. Many people in this community have worked for years on this goal. We could not have gotten to this point without their tireless advocacy. I'd like to thank Commissioner DeFronzo and his team for all their hard work and dedication to this project."

DAS Commissioner DeFronzo stated "After some 40 years of discussion and planning, DAS is pleased to partner with the Judicial Branch and the town of Torrington to finally move this project to the construction phase. This will be a state-of-the-art facility whose construction will provide a substantial economic infusion into the Torrington area, with some 1,400 construction jobs created."

DeFronzo went on to thank the staff at DAS' Division of Construction Services including Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi and especially Project Manager David Wlodkowski who has worked on the project for years.

This project has had a long and challenging path to fruition and the state agencies involved have had to overcome a number of problems and issues, including the siting of the project, the acquisition of the property and the final design of the facility. The staff at DAS and Judicial Branch are pleased to be able to finally bring this project together and it is hoped that this facility will be an efficient and convenient place for court business to be conducted in Litchfield County for decades to come.

## ***DAS Blood Drive***

As an incentive to get "new blood" to join the DAS Blood Drives which are held in the State Office Building, everyone who signed up for an appointment and donated blood for the May 28 drive, received one ticket towards a chance of winning DAS Commissioner DeFronzo's parking spot for a week.

"Our incentive worked!" proclaimed DAS Blood Drive coordinator Teresa Dupont. "We had a definite increase in donors. Our goal was 41 pints and we ended up with 49 pints! 57 people showed up to the drive and THAT may have been a new record."

The winner of the Commissioner's parking spot is Rich Mindek from the Department of Consumer Protection. Rich will use the Commissioner's spot for a week in July while he is on vacation. Congratulations Rich!

***Each pint of blood can save up to three lives - your donation is critical.*** Please consider giving at the next Blood drive on **Wednesday, August 6**. Information will be made available as the date gets closer.



# Matchmaker Conference

by John McKay



Following last year’s successful business matchmaker conference, Governor Malloy, the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, the University of Hartford’s Entrepreneurial Center, the Connecticut Procurement Technical Assistance Program, the CT Department of Transportation, the U.S. General Services Administration, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Connecticut Small Business Development Center and the Department of Economic and Community Development held another event June 12, 2014, at the Gengras Student Center at the University of Hartford.



The conference is designed to match qualified, Connecticut-based, small businesses with federal and state prime contractors to increase business opportunities while providing prime contractors with the opportunity to meet small and minority-businesses to help them achieve their subcontracting goals.

“Small and minority owned businesses are crucial to growing our economy and ensuring that all citizens can share in our recovery,” said Governor Malloy. “I encourage small business in Connecticut to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with opportunities that in return will help Connecticut workers and continue to grow our economy.”

*Top: Commissioner DeFronzo speaks with Meg Yetishefsky at the 2014 Matchmaker Conference.*

*Many small and minority businesses met one-on-one with companies that are hiring.*

“This matchmaker event gives DAS the opportunity to put small and minority owned businesses in direct contact with large state and federal contractors who could potentially use their services. This helps these small Connecticut based companies get work while assisting the contractors in meeting their small and minority business set aside goals. State agencies currently hold contracts for the purchase of goods and services valued at about \$2 billion dollars,” said DAS Commissioner Donald DeFronzo. “Small businesses should consider the state as a partner in working towards their success and utilizing all the programs the state has to offer,” he added.

DAS’ Meg Yetishefsky and her staff were integral in organizing the event.



“This event gives DAS the opportunity to put small and minority owned businesses in direct contact with large state and federal contractors who could potentially use their services,” said Yetishefsky. This helps these small Connecticut based companies get work while assisting the contractors in meeting their small and minority business set aside goals.”

She added, “State agencies currently hold contracts for the purchase of goods and services valued at about \$2 billion dollars. There are currently over 3,000 certified businesses within the DAS small and minority business program that could greatly benefit from this event and potentially get more of that business. In these difficult economic times, every opportunity helps.



The Matchmaker Conference offers an invaluable opportunity for small to large businesses interested in expanding their contracting opportunities. At the event, small businesses meet with prime contractors, municipalities and government agencies to present their goods and services in a series of 10 minute one-on-one sessions.”

Committee organizations made a conscious effort to reach out to small business to prepare them for their 10 minute meetings with contractors. Also, there was a June 18 post event webinar to answer attendee questions and advise participants with their next steps in pursuing contracts.



Meg went on to thank her staff and others, “I would like to specifically thank Lori Coleman, Kevin Nodwell, Joanne Cusano, Pam Anderson, Marisol Rivera, Gregg Mooney, Rachel Whitesell, Marcie Wilson and John McKay and the Communications staff for assisting the day of the event. It is a long day and takes you away from your daily responsibilities. Your efforts to assist the attendees in understanding the various DAS Procurement programs is a valuable part of the event. The DAS procurement ‘representation’ is always one that the agency can be proud of.”

## 2014 Public Sector for the Future Summit: Creating the Agenda

Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson was a recent speaker for a panel presentation called “Open for Innovation: Data Governance in a Cross-Boundary World” where he explained the various open government data initiatives in and around Connecticut state government along with our implementation of the Business Intelligence module for Core-CT. The event took place at the 2014 Public Sector for the Future Summit: Creating the Agenda which was held from June 10 through 12 at Harvard University. It was attended by representatives from the federal and state governments and various universities from around the United States.



## Quinebaug Middle College Ribbon Cutting

by John McKay



A ribbon cutting ceremony for the newest addition to Quinebaug Valley Community College was held at the Danielson campus on Thursday, May 22. The new 38,000 square-foot wing houses the Quinebaug Middle College, a regional magnet high school which opened its doors in 2008.

The new wing has six classrooms, two science labs, art room, special education room, music room with two practice rooms, fitness room, health suite, offices and collaborative rooms. It also houses a half gym. Participating in the ribbon cutting was DCS Deputy Commissioner Pasquale Salemi who thanked his staff, who “saw this whole project through from inception to completion especially our Project Manager, Rob Dexter.”

“I’d also like to thank the DCS Code Review Unit including Halina Harabasz, Homesh Sharma, Vishnu Khade, Dave Surprenant and John Nolan and the Office of Education Plan Review Unit who all assisted in the project code oversight.”



*Deputy Commissioner Salemi addresses the crowd as a group below officially cut the ribbon for Quinebaug Middle School.*

# State Electric Cars

by John McKay

To commemorate Earth Day in April, car dealers from throughout the state joined together at Hartford's Bushnell Park to showcase the latest model of electric vehicles and offer test drives. At the event, Governor Malloy announced that with a growing network of publicly available charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs), Connecticut can now be considered a "range confident" state, giving drivers more confidence than ever before that they can recharge their batteries when needed.

Just before noon, the crowd followed Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Rob Klee over to the new charging station installed to the side of their Elm Street headquarters, where he paused to recognize many of the people who have worked to make Connecticut a great place for energy efficient vehicles.

"Connecticut is part of a bold eight-state initiative to put 3.3 million zero-emissions vehicles on the road by 2025. Expanding the number of publicly available charging stations and achieving 'range confidence' is critical to meeting this goal," he told the crowd.

And DAS Fleet is also getting on the electric bandwagon.

With assistance from the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Connecticut Clean Fuel (CCF) program, the Department of Administrative Services Fleet Operations Unit has purchased two Chevy Volt Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs). Fleet expects to make these cars available soon for client agency use.

The purpose of both Chevy Volts will be to expand the knowledge of AFV technology within DAS' customer base by providing firsthand experience and use of the vehicle. The Volt offers an initial electric range of about 40 miles. When the electric range of the Volt is depleted, a gas-powered electric generator works with the electric motors to keep the vehicle working. The Volt can drive a total range of up to 350+ miles on a full charge and a full tank of gas.

DAS Commissioner Donald DeFronzo said, "Since Connecticut has joined the State Zero-Emission Vehicle Program alliance to expand the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles, we feel that DAS should assume a leadership role in this important mission. Adding two Chevrolet Volts will provide the critical first step for us to begin increasing the number of Alternative Fuel Vehicles in our fleet. They will be used to create awareness and provide firsthand driving experiences which will eliminate any preconceived notions."



Top: Governor Dannel Malloy checks out the driver's seat of an electric vehicle in Bushnell Park.

# Connecticut Education Network Conference

by John McKay

In May, the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) held its second annual membership conference at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

CEN is part of the State's secure Nutmeg Network. The Nutmeg Network is the state's fiber-optic infrastructure that delivers reliable, high-speed internet access to its members throughout Connecticut. Already offered to schools, libraries and emergency services around the state, Governor Malloy said that expanding its availability to include all municipal services will help towns, cities and regional councils of governments (COGs) achieve additional cost savings while sharing services and improving efficiency.

DAS' Chief Information Officer Mark Raymond was a keynote speaker and helped open the event.

"Since 2000, the state has recognized the critical importance of high speed networking on our ability to perform research and improve education within the state. With combined state and federal investments, we now have a network that continues to deliver on that formative vision. We are improving the services that we provide to the library and education communities and at the same time extending high-speed network benefits to our municipalities and first responders," said Raymond.



After the success of the 2013 conference, the 2014 conference was even bigger and better. With more municipalities getting involved CEN incorporated a wider range of sessions to accommodate all of the approximate 450 attendees.

On the same day, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that he has approved a series of grants to assist municipalities throughout Connecticut with the infrastructure costs associated with connecting their town governments to the state's Nutmeg Network and extending its availability to include all municipal services.

"As technology improves, government services continue to move online as a way of improving responsiveness to our state's citizens and increasing efficiency," Governor Malloy said. "Expanding the availability of the Nutmeg Network to now include all types of municipal services is one way the state can help municipalities reduce their own costs while eliminating overlap."

# Design and Trade Conference

by Nina Ritson



On May 29, DAS' Office of Education and Data Management, in partnership with the University of Hartford, hosted the 13th Annual Design and Trades Conference at the University of Hartford. The event was open to architects, building code officials, electricians, engineers, home construction and home improvement contractors, HVAC technicians and many more in the trades.

The conference featured keynote speaker Bruce J. Spiewak, consulting architect, whose presentation focused on basic code concepts for Use and Occupancy, Construction types, Height and Area and means of egress that have been the foundation on the building code for decades.



Commissioner Don DeFronzo delivered opening remarks highlighting DAS' most recent accomplishments in Design and Construction. "We have a lot going on these days – a number of large projects are in process and a number of projects are in the pipeline." He then noted the ribbon cutting for additions to Quinebaug Valley Community College and Quinebaug Valley Middle College, the Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia, the upcoming ribbon cutting at JM Wright Technical High School in Stamford and the long awaited announcement of the new Litchfield County Courthouse in Torrington.

*Top - Commissioner Don DeFronzo addresses the crowd at the Design and Trades Conference.*

*Below - Vendors displayed their wares as they greeted attendees.*

The event also featured two sessions of workshops, a panel discussion and lunch. So many attended this year that in the works already is the Design and Trades Conference 2015 and it is beginning to look just as exciting. This conference was made possible through the Code Training and Education Fund. Revenue for the fund is provided through assessments on building permits.

# Meet the State Fire Marshal's Office

by Nina Ritson

DAS welcomes “one of our new kids of the block” at 165 Capitol Avenue - the State Fire Marshal. Newly settled in Room 258 the State Fire Marshal is one of the oldest agencies in Connecticut State Government. Dating back to 1901 they have been a part of the Department of Public Safety until the reorganization of state agencies in 2011. They are now part of the Division of Construction Services and at the helm is William (Bill) Abbott.

“The State Fire Marshal is divided into four groups basically, but we work closely with the State Building Inspector, local fire marshals and building inspectors as well as state and local units of Public Safety.” Abbott described the organization. “The first section is responsible for state buildings including yearly inspections of all state buildings – offices, colleges, vocational-technical high schools, prisons, hospitals and Camp Niantic. They do plan reviews and construction for non-threshold projects. In this group are Peter Curioli, Wayne Ferrebee, James O’Neil, Robert Schlink and Terri Trenholm.

Next is the Field Services group consisting of Joe Kingston, Supervisor, John Dembishack, John Doucette, Mike Kellett and Elmer (Chuck) Kiessling. They perform state fire code reviews, draft fire code modifications, assist local fire marshals and assist in fire code development.

Then comes State Construction a group that is currently “on loan” to the State Building Official for threshold plus 20/20 projects. This group does a lot of work with the state colleges as the height area and occupancy triggers excess of threshold. In this group are Tom Duff, Kevin Griffith, Colin Jefferies, Ed Peznowski and John Rossi.

And the fourth division is the Demolition and Cranes Unit. One person is responsible for the services, Elliot Henowitz. He licenses and registers all cranes and crane operators, hoisting operators and apprentices. He also issues demolition licenses such as when a house is to be demolished, the owner applies to the State for the license but must obtain a demolition permit from their town official.

There is also a small unit called Code Services. In the unit is Terry Brower who works on fire code, legislation, fire safe cigarettes and fire code modifications.



*Left to Right Front Row:  
John Dembishack, John Rossi, Bill Abbott, Tom Duff, Colin Jefferies.  
Middle Row:  
Carol Baranowski, Linda Spring, Teri Trenholm, Jim O’Neil, Elmer  
(Chuck) Kiessling  
Rear Row:  
Joe Kingston, John Doucette, Peter Curioli*

In addition to these groups the State Fire Marshal is supported by two administrative staff, Linda Spring and Carol Baranowski.

Abbott’s career history in Fire safety is quite long. He began his service at the City of Hartford serving 25 years for the City of Hartford Fire Department, 20 of those years in the Fire Marshals Office – 5 as the Hartford Fire Marshal. After retiring from Hartford he brought his vast wealth of knowledge to the state when he joined as a Fire and Life Safety Specialist, then promoted to Fire and Life Safety Supervisor and now State Fire Marshal. A longtime resident of East Hampton, he and his wife Tammy raised four children in the area and he still plays softball and vintage baseball locally.

To Bill and Staff - welcome to DAS!

# Law Enforcement Career Fair

On May 12 DAS hosted a Law Enforcement Career Fair at UConn's Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

DAS' Deb Mainville noted, "The registration for the State Police Trooper Trainee and Protective Services Trainee had opened the Thursday before so the timing was perfect for those curious about the process. The objective was to have attendees visit various information counters regarding various state law enforcement career opportunities. And this paid off -- over 700 attended this event!"

"We also want any interested individuals to know about the Law Enforcement Recruitment website and the process involved to apply for a state law enforcement position." said DAS Statewide Human Resources Director Dr. Pamela Libby.

State Law Enforcement positions range from Connecticut State Police Troopers, to Protective Services and Correction Officers. Participants came from DEEP, DMV, DMHAS, DOC, DESPP, SCSU, CCSU and ECSU. Plus Judicial Marshals and UConn police.

Deb added, "We had a computer area so applicants could apply right there online at the job fair and print their confirmation for the exams. State Police had members of their training academy staff on hand to discuss and/or demonstrate typical activities that recruits can expect to experience at the academy."

Several canines were on hand – Hunter from DEEP, Corrections had two, Stryker and Bosco, and UConn brought a canine 'officer' to the event. DOC brought several officers and weaponry from different units within their agency – SITCON, K-9, Honor guard, CERT, SOG. UConn had their mobile command unit in the parking lot – also a state marshal truck and state police vehicles were on hand for viewing.

Overall the fair was an excellent way for the general public to learn more about law enforcement careers within the State agencies. Apart from State Police Trooper there are Conservation Officers, Motor Vehicle Inspectors, Campus police at colleges and state agency security. Many brought materials and videos to share with attendees detailing what their responsibilities as police officers are.

No advertising was needed. This fair is so popular that the word got out quickly!



# Urban League Job Fair by John McKay and Alicia Nuñez

On May 8 the Urban League held its 14th Annual Employment Empowerment Expo, and DAS was right in the heart of it.

“We try to help people stay empowered because there are jobs out here. There is hope for people,” said Yvonne Matthews, the Urban League organizer. Alicia Nuñez, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager, said “539 job seekers attended and 44 employers, including DAS, participated.”

People traveled from Boston, Springfield, Fairfield County and New Haven County. Participants had their resumes critiqued by certified resume writers, attended presentations on starting your own small business, and learned strategies to improve interview skills.

Debra Mainville, DAS Human Resources Specialist and Alicia Nuñez were on hand to assist diverse job seekers with information about getting a job with the state, taking an exam, signing up for e-alerts and navigating the DAS website.

Companies looking to hire were in the industries of healthcare, financial services, construction, entertainment, hospitality, retail, non-profit, education and communications.

Deb Mainville summed up the day, “it was fun and exhausting - so many people attended and we hope they walk away with the information they need to advance their careers. But all in all the day was a huge success!”

*Above: Job Fair Team Francine Dew, Andrea Clarke, Alicia Nuñez and Debbie Mainville take a moment for a photo after a hectic day at the Urban League Job Fair.*

*Middle: Andrea Clarke helps a job seeker at the DAS job booth.*

*Below: Overview of the Job Fair.*



# Aspiring Leaders Graduates Three of Our Own

by Nina Ritson and Peggy Zabawar



On June 19 the Aspiring Leaders 2014 graduated its 5th class of 26 managers from 16 agencies including Executive and Judicial Branches and Higher Ed. Dr. Martin Anderson gave the keynote address and presented certificates at the graduation.

DAS graduated three of its own: Angela Taetz presented her project on revamping the CT.gov website, to make content faster and easier for people to find.



Carla Martin and Irena Baj-Wright teamed up to present their project on the Leadership Associate Program for Human Resources.



*Top: Angela Taetz of BEST presents her final report at the Aspiring Leaders graduation on Thursday, June 19 at followed by Carla Martin (middle).*

*Below: Irena Baj-Wright presented as well and is shown here along with Deputy Commissioner Anderson and Director Dave Lynn receiving her certificate.*

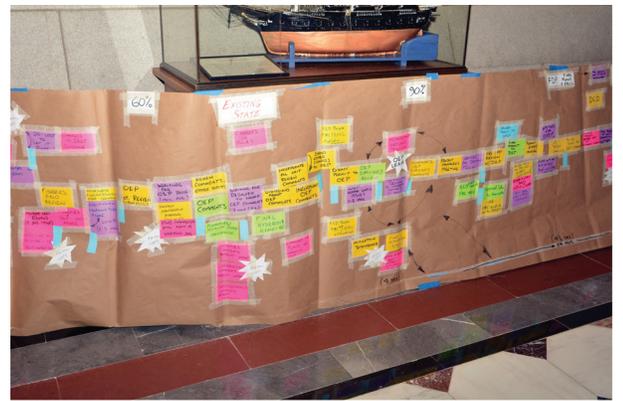
# Lean Showcase at the Capitol

On April 29, 2014, the lobby at the State Capitol was wall-to-wall exhibits. Not the work of some famous artist but the works of progress of many dedicated state employees who have committed to getting the State of Connecticut operating as lean as it possibly can and to make their programs and businesses more efficient. DAS proudly participated in the event which was organized by OPM's LeanCT program and the Statewide Process Improvement Steering Committee - with members from OPM, DAS, DEEP, DOT, DECD, DDS, DSS, DRS, DMV, DCP, DOL, DESPP, DOC and OEC.

The participating agencies in the showcase were OPM, DAS, DEEP, DOT, DECD, DDS, DSS, DRS, DMV, DCP, DOL, DESPP, DOC, DPH, DCF, SDE, DOH/CHFA and SOTS.

The intended audience was the participants themselves including state agency staff, legislators, executive leadership (Governor's Office, Commissioners, etc.), and other elected personnel. Although the public was welcome, the event was staged to showcase state agency process improvement results. The exhibition included displays, PowerPoint slides, hand-outs, and Q&A.

In the future this planned as an annual event during the legislative session. It will highlight process improvement efforts and how agencies use data to make decisions and affect positive change. Focus will continue to be heavy on inter-agency collaboration, as that is one of the most substantial outcomes of this effort. Inter-agency collaboration allows for increased communication, the identification of cross-functional projects, best-practice sharing, and encourages agency staff development.



## People are talking..... by Cindy Rusczyk

Communications Assistant Colleen Fitzpatrick commended **Nina Ritson** for the “amazing work with the Biennial Report of the Office of the Probate Court Administrator. The report got a shout-out at the probate Assembly’s annual meeting from Probate Court Administrator Paul J. Knierim and many compliments from colleagues. Your skills as a graphic designer, professionalism, (the theme of the report) attention to detail and speed. Thanks also for making **Anthony Calabrese** available for the important photography work. It was a pleasure working with you both.”

Principal Attorney Tracie Brown from the Freedom of Information Commission applauded Director of Communications **Jeffrey Beckham** for “serving as a speaker and for helping to make our annual conference on ‘The Ever Changing Landscape of Electronic Records and FOI Act’. Your update was very informative and timely. We are always impressed that you continue to find relevant topics to discuss adding so much value to the conference. Thank you for contributing your time and effort to make this educational program such a great success.”

*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](mailto:Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov) Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!*

DAS Communications would like to thank **Joe Moreira** for his assistance in setting up equipment for Governor Malloy’s press conference regarding the Torrington Courthouse announcement in late May.

Donna Tommelleo from the Department of Insurance thanked **Don Poulin** and the **Facilities Management staff** “for the loan of the podium for our rate hearing on Friday. It was exactly what we needed. DAS staff was prompt in delivering it and picking it up this morning. My thanks to all those who made this happen.”

Tracie Knapsack sent the following message of praise to Donald Poulin regarding two Facilities Management employees: “I just wanted to let you know that **Joe Moreira** and **Lenny Williams** helped move some furniture from Russell Road in Newington to DAG-CT Marketing Authority Hartford today. They loaded some heavy items and were more than willing to assist the DAG staff at the Regional Market. They even assisted in the removal of the old items and made sure that the DAG staff was all set and satisfied before they left the facility. I cannot express how refreshing it is to work with them and they certainly made DAS look good today!”



## SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
CHURCHILL PARK  
1991 MAIN STREET,  
NEWINGTON, CT

DAS EMPLOYEES: \$20  
GUEST: \$25

Hotdogs, hamburgers, grilled chicken,  
sausages, cold pastas  
and salad

## COMINGS and GOINGS

*Shown top to bottom from left to right:*

### **NEW EMPLOYEES:**

**Randy Porter** – Fleet Operations

**Greg Mooney** – Procurement Services

**Robin Taylor** – DAS Payroll

**Jennifer Willhide** – Collection Services

**Timothy O'Brien** – DCS

### **TRANSFERS:**

**Jamila Goolgar** – new EEO Specialist in SmART

### **RETIREMENTS:**

**Paul Polanski** – BEST

**Alton Goodman** – BEST

**Stephen Soklow** – Strategic Services

**Belinda V. Hall** – Collection Services

