TRANSEND

January 2007

A magazine for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

INSIDE

Ethics workshop 5

I-10 expansion – Tucson 6

Prescott carolers 7

"King of the road" 8

Partnering event 11

ADOT

Research is their passion

Arizona Transportation Research Center

Story on Page 3

Dale Steele, librarian for ATRC searches volumes of manuscripts and documents in his quest for just the right information.

Victor Mendez
Director

While cleaning out my desk – an annual ritual – I came across a list of resolutions I made for 2006. The usual stuff, you know, like most everyone makes: promises to do this, or not to do that.

And, like most everyone, two months into the year, the list got put aside, and later shoved to the back of a drawer where it was forgotten until now.

I'm not making any new resolutions this year. Instead, I'm dusting off my old list and putting it right where I can see it every morning to remind me of what I promised. I figure I have some catching up to do.

I encourage you to do the same. Whatever your resolutions were in 2006, just change the date to 2007 and put the list where you can review it daily. Pick out one or two items and concentrate on fulfilling them.

Sometimes, though, we need to remind ourselves that the New Year is not so much about making resolutions as it is about making opportunities for new beginnings. That's the stuff of which success is made. As we start the New Year, please join me in yet another new beginning. Let's resolve to be the best at whatever we do here at ADOT. We need to remind ourselves of the ADOT Vision, that we will be the standard of excellence for transportation systems and services.

Have a happy and safe New Year.

Victor M. Mendez,
Director

TRANSEND

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ADOT

Arizona Transportation Research Center

Research is their passion

By Ron Loar
Editor

Amid long, narrow aisles of ceiling-high shelves and stacks of file boxes crammed with technical reports, white papers and research documents, seven men spend their workdays searching, sifting, analyzing, and managing volumes of data. These are the employees of the Arizona Transportation Research Center (ATRC) of ADOT.

Pondering over a pile of manuscripts, and reports, John Semmens manages an average of 20 research projects at any given time.

And, while the mountains of reading material and cavernous shelves of documents are a source of information, the ATRC staff is more likely to turn to computers for their research today. Search engines provide ready access to a world of information for the research project managers who have a hunger for facts, figures and technical data.

"We probably spend more time managing research projects than doing the actual research," explains Frank Darmiento, veteran researcher and manager of ATRC. "Our job requires knowing where to go to get the research done." ATRC uses university professors, college students, and consultants to do most of the actual sleuthing for information.

From their location at 2739 E. Washington Street in Phoenix, ATRC project managers also develop research ideas. They assist in preparing procurement documents, inter-agency and joint project agreements. Occasionally they work as research scientists or engineers on projects.

Once the lead researcher has assembled a draft report, it is reviewed by a technical advisory committee for comments. The project manager then makes appropriate revisions to the manuscript which is then reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. A technical editor is contracted to make final edits before the report is sent back to the project manager for final revisions.

"It's an intensive quality control process," says Darmiento, who gives the final manuscript one last look before it goes to the printer. "We must verify proper documentation to ensure the report is technically correct, yet easy to read," he says

Research project managers must be detail-oriented and thorough. Facts must be checked and re-checked, often requiring verification and corroboration. "The success of a project study demands accuracy and thoroughness," according to Darmiento.

Technical reports developed by ATRC probably will never find their way to the top ten best-seller list or end up among book of the month club selections. To the layman, these reports are filled with technical jargon, are complicated, and confusing. To engineers, technicians, and financial managers, the documents are invaluable resource tools.

The verbose titles of some technical reports, alone, are enough to put one to sleep. Consider some of these: "*Evaluation of Measures to Minimize Wildlife Vehicle Collisions and Maintain Wildlife Permeability across Highways;"* or, *"Cost Evaluation of Cross-*

(Continued on Page 4)

Research

(Continued from Page 4)

Border Truck Emissions Testing using Heavy Duty Remote Sensing." Perhaps one might find *this title particularly inspiring: "Development of Mix Design Procedures and End Product Specifications for Gap-Graded Asphalt-Rubber Asphalt Concrete."*

In addition to Darmiento, the ATRC staff includes project managers Christ Dimitroplos, Jason Harris, Tom Kombe, Steve Owen, and John Semmens; Dale Steele, librarian; and Christopher Gass, field technician.

ATRC works with a 20-member internal Research Council which reviews requests for research projects and makes recommendations for allocating funds for research studies. The Research Council provides feedback and guidance to the research program.

The Product Resource Investment Deployment and Evaluation (PRIDE) program administered by ATRC provides product evaluation for ADOT. Directed by the ATRC manager with assistance from a part-time engineering student and two consultants, PRIDE coordinates activities of product evaluation committees in the areas of traffic control equipment, materials and pipe. They track evaluation of products and monthly update an Approved Products List. They also maintain an extensive database for the PRIDE program.

Cataloging and maintaining an extensive library of information is the responsibility of Dale Steele. With assistance from part-time employees, he shelves master copies of all ATRC publications, updates the Transportation Research Information Services database and the Research in Progress database. Steele also maintains the ATRC Web site, coordinates printing of final reports and research notes and submits reports to the National Transportation Library.

The staff also provides in-house research consulting services in areas of pavement, noise abatement, air quality, traffic safety, administrative and financial procedures, and regulatory requirements.

Learn more about the
Arizona Transportation Research Center
at their Web site:
www.azdot.gov/tpd/atrc

Frank Darmiento (standing), manager of ATRC reviews research projects with Dale Steele, librarian and project managers Estomih Kombe, Christ Dimitropolos, and John Semmens.

Ethics in government advocate speaks

ADOT leaders attend ethics workshop; will share information with employees

Leaders of ADOT spent three days of intensive training on the subject of Ethics in Government, taught by nationally renown authority on the subject, Michael Josephson, founder and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, based in Los Angeles.

The 40 leaders became acquainted with the Five Principles of Public Service Ethics and are expected to carry the message back to their employees. "It is my anticipation that all employees will hear this message of ethical conduct in the workplace before this year is through," says Victor Mendez, director, "We have already started publishing a regular monthly column, Practical Ethics, in this newsletter and I have encouraged supervisors to conduct one-on-one discussions with each employee."

"ADOT has gone to great expense to retain the services of Josephson to instruct our leaders," says Karen Mills, special projects manager for the Director's Office. "We believe it is worth that expense to develop ethically-trained employees."

Josephson, a former attorney and law professor, uses wit and humor combined with profound insights and sensible strategies to enlighten and inspire his audiences. He is regarded as one of the nation's pre-eminent consultants on the subject of ethics.

His clients include the U.S. Army, the Internal Revenue Service, as well as many state, county and local government agencies.

Taking a break during an intensive three-day workshop on ethics in government are, from left, Karen Mills, special projects manager for the Director's Office; Carla Miller of the Josephson Institute of Ethics; Mary Currie, of ADOT's Physical Plant Operations; and Michael Josephson, founder and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.

Practical Ethics The ADOT Way

By Karen Mills and Dian Work

All public servants have a responsibility to conduct business according to the Five Principles of Public Service Ethics:

Public Interest – Public office is a trust to be used only to advance public interests, not personal gain.

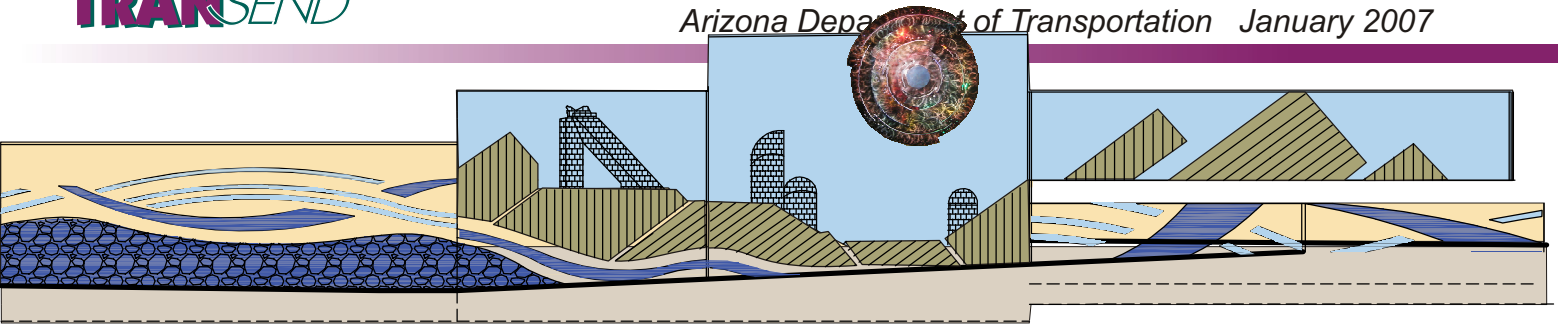
Objective Judgment – Decisions are to be made on the merits, free of partiality or prejudice and unimpeded by conflicts of interest.

Accountability – Government is to be conducted openly, efficiently, equitably and honorably so the public can make informed judgments and hold public officials accountable.

Democracy – Honor and respect democratic principles; observe the letter and spirit of laws.

Respectability – Safeguard public confidence in the integrity of government by avoiding appearances of impropriety and conduct unbefitting a public official.

Beginning in February, this column will explore one of these areas each month. Be sure to catch next month's column as we discuss the topic of public interest.



I-10 expansion project underway in Tucson

By Teresa Welborn
Deputy Public Involvement Director

The largest highway construction project in southern Arizona the widening of I-10 from Prince Road to 29th Street in Tucson, will begin this month. A 6-mile section of freeway will be widened to four through-lanes and one auxiliary lane.

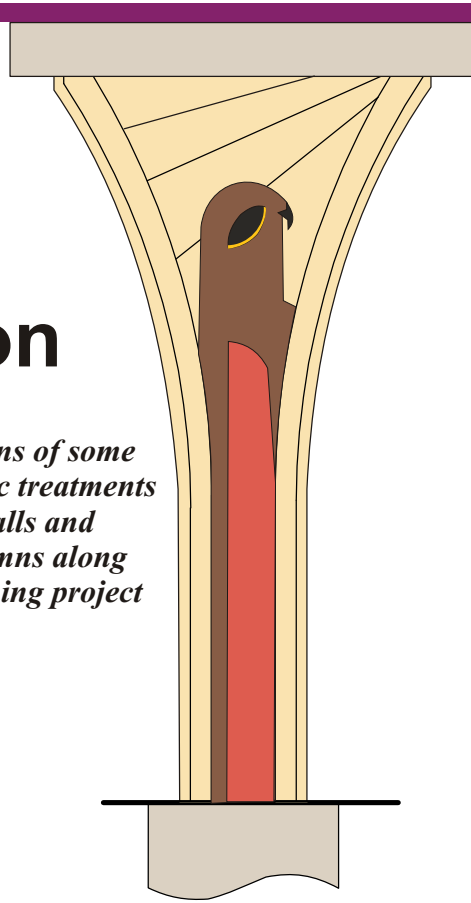
Tucson artists Carol Clements and Gonzalo Espinoza, assisted architects in developing the aesthetic treatments for the bridges, columns and walls. Thirteen neighborhood associations surrounding the project provided input for the designs.

Preliminary construction will necessitate lane and ramp closures in order to relocate utility lines, update and install the freeway management system and re-stripe the frontage roads. New bridges will be built at Grant Road, Speedway Boulevard, St. Mary's Road, Congress Street, Granada Avenue/Clark Street, 18th Street and 22nd Street according to Roderick Lane, senior resident engineer.

"Throughout the construction process, ADOT will keep citizens and business owners advised of traffic changes via project update publications and through local media," says Sally Stewart, public involvement director.

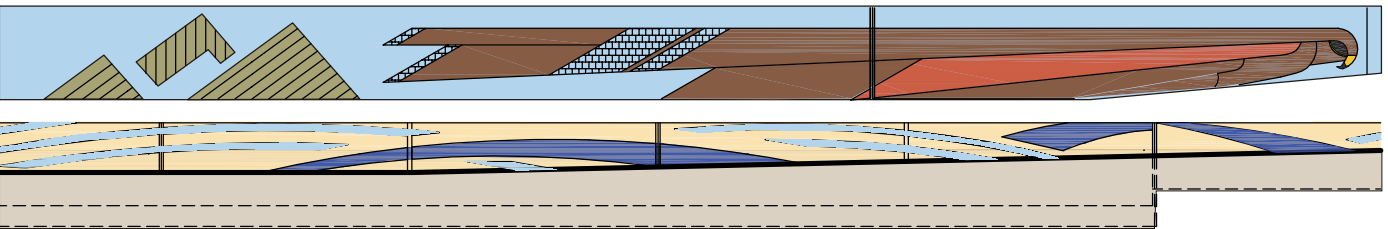
In June 2007, on- and off-ramps in the construction zone will be closed for 2-1/2 years, the project engineer says. Local traffic will enter and exit I-10 at Prince Road on the north end of the project and at 29th Street on the south end of the project. Local traffic must travel along the widened frontage roads to access businesses and cross streets. Through traffic will continue to flow on I-10 using two lanes in each direction during construction.

At a recent public event to unveil the project to Tucson residents, ADOT Director Victor Mendez noted that the project took more than ten years to develop. "It was originally planned to be constructed in three segments over a ten-year period. It's now one continuous project and will be completed in 3-1/2 years," said Mendez. The $200 million construction projected is being handled by general contractor Kiewit/Sundt Joint Venture.



Artist renditions of some of the aesthetic treatments for freeway walls and overpass columns along the I-10 widening project in Tucson.

For current information on the construction project, visit: **www.i10tucson.com** or call the I-10 Hotline at **1.877.961.1010 or 520.327.6444.**



Prescott District employees brighten holidays for patients of hospitals, nursing homes

By Matt Santos
Prescott Correspondent

"The more the merrier!" That's the invitation from ADOT Construction Operation Technician Bonnie Opie. But she's not looking for help on a road crew. Her mission over the holiday season was to bring a little joy to those who otherwise might have had to spend the holidays alone.

Opie and several of her co-workers in the Prescott District take holiday cheer to hospitals, nursing homes, and care centers in the Prescott area every holiday season, singing Christmas carols for those who may not otherwise be able to get out and enjoy the holiday season. In recent years they have visited the Veterans Hospital, the Arizona Pioneer Home, Samaritan Village, and Mountain View Manor. "Our office has been doing this for at least six years," said Opie, who started organizing the caroling about three years ago.

The patients and staff members at each stop are entertained with traditional seasonal classics such as "Jingle Bells," "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Silent Night," but they weren't the only ones having fun. Opie says she and the other volunteers benefit from the outings as well. "It's all about going out and having a good time as a group and bringing joy to other people. Just seeing the smiles on everybody's faces makes it so worthwhile."

So is there an *ADOT-Idol* in the future for any of Bonnie's little helpers? "While they all sang beautifully," Opie says, "it's not so much quality as much as quantity that counts. The people we sing to are so happy to hear us, they don't care if we don't sound professional.

In addition to Bonnie, the Prescott District group was made up of ADOT employees, family members, and friends including Linda Dorris and Fran Zea of Prescott Valley; Richie Maerk, Carol Ray, Michele Pings, Brita Hammit, Veronica and Liberty Outlaw, all from Prescott; Casey Morrow and Linda Bennett of Wickenburg; Debbie Montgomery of Northern Region; and Carolyn Upton from the State Engineer's Office accompanied by her husband, Myron.

The Prescott District office also participates in other local activities to benefit the Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis, and various other charitable causes in the Prescott area.

Some of the Prescott District employees who annually visit hospitals and nursing homes to sing Christmas carols are, Casey Morrow, Debbie Montgomery, Linda Dorris and Carol Ray.

Safety Calendar Award Winners

Photo by Dave McDarby

Children whose artwork was selected for publication in the 2007 ADOT Safety Calendar, pose with the Highway Hawk, safety mascot for ADOT; Victor Mendez, Director; and Sonya Herrera, Safety and Health Administrator. ADOT relatives of the children are shown in parenthesis. From left, first row – Skylar Dickson (Francis Martin, ITD), Jobie Sheppard (James Sheppard, ITD), Fernando Marquez (Philip Marquez, ITD); Highway Hawk; Luis Jimenez (Joyce Aldana, TSG), and Toahani Chief (Sharon Chief-Yazzie, ITD, and Allyn Yazzie, Jr., ITD). Back row – Jasmine Arollo (Marta Raiford, ITD, Linnea Dawson, (Emily Dawson, ITD); Cynthia Gardiner (Cyndi Selby, TSG); Victor Mendez; Sara Gutierrez, (Lily Gutierrez, TSG); Sonya Herrera; Tiara Jones (Victoria Haselton, MVD); and Elena Burciaga, (Juanita Jones, ITD). Absent were Karina Romero, (Sylvia Romero, ITD); Tony Kuhn, (Darrell Kuhn, MVD); and James Hernandez, (Jaime Hernandez, ITD).

LeRoy Brady called "King of the Road" in garden magazine

LeRoy Brady, chief landscape architect for ADOT and an avid rose aficionado, is featured in the December, 2006, issue of *Phoenix Home and Garden* magazine.

"King of the Road," is what the magazine calls Brady in the title of the five-page feature article written by Cathy Cromwell. The writer credits Brady's work in the ". . . use of native, and arid-adapted and low-water-use plants for revegetation projects next to the state's highways and freeways." She quotes Brady as saying that ". . . replanting after construction minimizes and reduces maintenance costs along roadsides."

In addition to featuring Brady's contribution to roadside plantings in his 32 years with ADOT, the magazine article discusses the landscape architect's penchant for growing award-winning show roses and other flora around his Mesa home. The article is well-illustrated with color photographs taken by Richard Maack.

Mileposts, the predecessor of ***TRAN****send.*, featured Brady's rose-growing prowess in an article in the June, 2005, publication. That article lauded Brady for his volunteer work in designing and coordinating planting of several rose gardens on the campus of Mesa Community College – a fact that was also mentioned in the *Phoenix Home and Garden* publication.

MVD staffers collect, donate items to American GIs

By Jim Cullison
MVD Project Support Manager

What started as a simple gesture to support American military forces in Iraq has turned into an ongoing project at the Motor Vehicle Division's Third Party Management Support Unit in Glendale.

The unit of approximately 20 employees, whose duties include quality checking the work turned in by MVD's third party providers, want to show active support for the military troops in Iraq. That notion turned into a venture that has seen the staff fill and ship box after box with items ranging from the practical to the whimsical, all intended to help the soldiers get through their tour of duty knowing that folks back home care about them.

The group developed a list of 100 suggested items, categorized by food, clothing, hygiene and recreation, and set up a collection box in the office in October. Staff members donate items, and when the box gets full, Judy Sevy, who coordinates the project, packs everything up and sends the package to their adopted troop in Iraq. The staff even donates money for the postage. Sevy already has sent seven packages and by now has enough articles to prepare three or four more shipments.

The list includes familiar items such as socks, shampoo, powdered drinks, and music CDs. Then there are the less common but no less useful objects eye drops and eyeglass cleaner, shoe insoles, hand sanitizer, flypaper, energy bars, Frisbees and yo-yos.

Sevy says, "We wanted to do something for the troops, and we knew Ken's son-in-law was going to Iraq, so we adopted his unit. Ken is Ken Dial, a longtime staff member in the Management Support Unit.

According to Sevy, there is no end date for the project. They will keep sending packages as long as the donations keep coming. She and her co-workers don't mind. "It's extra special when you're doing it for someone you know," she said.

Other employees wishing to donate items to the Third Party Management's military gift project are encouraged to contact Judy Sevy at:
602.712.5719
or send her an e-mail to
jsevy@azdot.gov

Ken Dial holds a box to be filled with items for troops in Iraq. Judy Sevy, Gabriella Buchert and Morgan Smith are some of the contributors at MVD's Third Party Management Support Unit that has adopted the project.

Retirements from ADOT

Employees retiring recently from ADOT, as reported by Human Resources, include:

Carl David Andrew, MVD, Parker Port of Entry, 36 years

Ransford B. Berry, TSG, Administration, 11 years

Timothy Bighorse, ITD, Gray Mountain Maintenance, 32 years

Baljeet Singh Chawla, ITD, Roadway Engineering, 19 years

Cameron J. Dowdell, TSG, Financial Mangement Services, 22 years

William Leon Garlinghouse, ITD, Globe District, 17 years

Barbara A. Gomez, ITD, East Area Lab, 28 years

Douglas E. Holler, MVD, Enforcement Services, 25 years

Roger L. Hopt, ITD, Prescott District 8 years

Dennis L. Kasl, Aeronautics, Aviation Outreach and Education, 18 years

Celestine Landrum, MVD, 23 years

PK McMahon, CCP, Community Relations, 8 years

Timothy R. Smith, ITD, VISION Field Office, 20 years

Edward P. Suserud, Aeronautics, Airport Development, 27 years

Sandra Lee Wade, TSG, Human Resources, 6 years

Roy H. Weaver, ITD, Pavement Design, 22 years

Frances T. Zea, ITD, Prescott Maintenance, 20 years

Third annual Safety Event promotes highway safety

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Council (GTSAC) will host its third annual Safety Event on the State Capitol lawn Tuesday, January 23. This event will be an opportunity to educate legislators, the media, and general public about transportation issues that affect Arizona.

With Arizona now the fastest growing according to the latest census report, and 1,177 people killed in traffic-related crashes last year, there is a lot of information to share about how safety organizations around the state are working together to improve traffic safety.

The event will include a private breakfast with local and national speakers addressing the legislators and their key staff on transportation issues affecting Arizona. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the general public is invited to visit the nearly 20 safety information booths to learn more about how the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Council is working to improve traffic safety.

GTSAC was created in 2004 by Governor Janet Napolitano to develop, promote, and implement cost-effective safety strategies to improve highway safety within Arizona.

More information about GTSAC can by found on their Web page at:

www.gtsac.org

Celebrating 15 years of Partnering

The Kingman District won two Partnering Excellence awards at the 15th annual Partnering Event held at the Mesa Convention Center.

Ginger Murdough, retired partnering director for ADOT was on hand for the celebration and award presentation that recognized partnership teams that demonstrate a high degree of achievement through practice of Partnering principles.

The Burro Creek Bridge project team received an award for roadway construction project over $10 million. Members of the team included Mike Kondelis, district engineer; Bob Winrow, ADOT consultant; Dennis Diteman, Dave Morrison, and Bill Kelton, all of R. E. Monks Construction.

The State Route 66, Andy Devine pavement project team received an award for a roadway construction project under $10 million. That team consisted of Kondelis, Russ DiVincenzo, project supervisor for the Kingman District; Kenneth Akoh-Arrey, of ADOT Engineering Design Section; Brian Fuller, and Matt Gulley of FNF Construction, Inc.; and Kim Cummings of Kaneen Advertising and Public Relations.

Sam Elters, state engineer; and David Martin, president of the Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors delivered welcoming remarks.

Joining Murdough in the award presentations was Ana Olivares, deputy director of Transportation Infrastructure for Pima County Department of Transportation.

The Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors and the American Council of Engineering Companies, along with ADOT co-sponsored the Partnering Event.

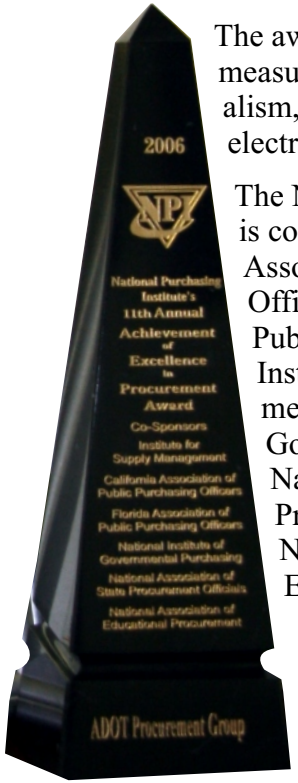
Burro Creek Project *– Amanda McGennis, AGC; Bill Cowdrey, HDR; Mike Kondelis, Kingman District; Dennis Diteman, R. E. Monks; Bob Winrow, ADOT; Dave Morrison and Bill Kelton. R. E. Monks; Ginger Murdough, retired Partnering director; and Victor Mendez, ADOT director.*

Andy Devine Project *– (first row), Russ DiVincenzo, Kingman District; Kim Cummings, Kaneen Associates; Kenneth Akoh-Arrey, ADOT;and Matt Gulley; FNF; (back row), Brian Fuller, FNF; Amanda McGennis, AGC; Bill Cowdrey,HDR; and Mike Kondelis, Kingman District; Ginger Murdough, retired Partnering director; and Victor Mendez, ADOT director.*

Procurement Office wins award 2nd year in a row

For the second year in a row, the National Purchasing Institute has conferred the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award upon ADOT's Procurement Office.

Larry J. Tweet, chief procurement officer, said the award was presented for best practices, performance measurements, knowledge and skills of the Procurement Office staff. "I am delighted, but not surprised that my staff earned this honor," says Tweet, "My employees have always been leaders in the field of purchasing."



The award program is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, leadership and adaptation to electronic purchasing practices.

The National Purchasing Institute is comprised of the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers, Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers, Institute of Supply Management, National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, National Association of State Procurement Officials, and the National Association of Educational Procurement.

Milestones in Service

The following employees attained milestones for their length of service with ADOT:

30 Years

Irene L. Steffen, ITD, Bridge Group

25 Years

Carl F. Eyrich, TSG, Equipment Services, Flagstaff

Douglas E. Holler, MVD, Nogales Port of Entry

Arthur Mankel, III, TSG, Equipment Services, Northern Region

20 Years

Leon Baldonado, ITD, Globe Maintenance

Cynthia D. Brown, MVD, Show Low

Veronica Cabrera, MVD, Central

Steven D. Maynard, ITD, Pavement Management

Daniel F. Perry, ITD, Traffic Engineering

Nicholas M. Priznar, ITD, Geotechnical Design

Timothy M. Wolfe, ITD, Traffic Operations Center

Frances T. Zea, ITD, Prescott Maintenance

International Aviation art contest deadline near

Deadline for submission of entries to the 2007 International Art Contest is Friday, January 12. Students between the ages of six and 17 are encouraged to submit their entries for this year's contest, the theme of which is, "Airfield."

Entries must be submitted to Carole Glenn (cglenn@azdot.gov) no later than the close of business on January 12. Contest brochure, complete with rules and entry forms is available at www.azdot.gov/aviation. Winning state entries will be submitted for national competition in Washington, D.C.

The mission of the contest is to motivate and encourage young people to open their minds to the possibility of a career in aeronautics, aerospace, or engineering and science, Glenn says.

The Aeronautics Division sponsors the Arizona segment of the contest. International sponsors include the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Aeronautic Association, NASA and the National Association of State Aviation Officials, in cooperation with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.