

Because the Oct. 21 All-Employee Meeting was canceled due to concerns about spreading flu, the Tribe's Human Resources Department has decided to announce the Employee Recognition honorees in Smoke Signals. Tribal employees being honored are:

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARDS

- **Lusaint (Mark) LaBonte, Housekeeping Supervisor**, was nominated by Employee Benefits Specialist Sheila Elliott-McDonald: I would like to nominate Lusaint (Mark) LaBonte for the job that he does as a supervisor of his employees and especially in regards to benefits paperwork, safety and care of the employees under him. Mark is very prompt with keeping me, the Employee Benefits Specialist, informed with issues dealing with FML and Workers' Compensation. Mark keeps on top of these issues and the employees to make sure things are turned in to be processed in a timely manner.
- **Deborah Bachman, Education Senior Administrative Assistant**, was nominated by the CTGR Higher Education Staff: We would like to nominate Deborah ("Debbie") Bachman, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Education Division, to be recognized for her diligent everyday work habits and efforts. She continually goes above and beyond what is expected of her and does it with a positive attitude and a smile. One example of this is her desire to ensure that classrooms are always prepared to high standards for the hundreds of meetings, trainings and events that occur in our building. This requires careful scheduling and management, as well as coming in early or staying late to arrange 20-plus tables in a particular format or make coffee for a crowd of 50 or more people. She is truly the heart of our department. From reviewing and organizing department budgets to processing check requests and purchase orders, to assisting staff with student files, she does it well and makes it look easy. We appreciate her willingness to put up with us on a daily basis and don't know what we would do or our students would do without her.
- **Dean Rhodes, Publications Coordinator**, was nominated by Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor: Our department was approached by Social Services about three weeks ago. They needed a 13-minute video on their intervention program. That wasn't a problem. But they needed it finished and ready for presentation by Oct. 20 for a conference in Washington, D.C. I was headed out of town that week so Dean Rhodes, publications coordinator, stepped up. He wrote the script and worked with our videographer to film interviews. He worked closely with Dave Fullerton to make sure Social Services was getting the quality product they needed and he completed the project's final edits with me on Friday, Oct. 16, making the Oct. 20 deadline with room to spare. This required dedication, a positive outlook and a commitment to our Tribal and departmental goals. Dean did so without complaint and with good grace.
- **George Neujahr, teacher aide**, was nominated by Education Services Coordinator Elaine Lane: When one of the ECE bus drivers resigned days before school began, George agreed to work in his regular position as a teacher in the Chinuk immersion classroom as well as drive the bus for ECE on a daily basis. He has been doing this now for over a month without any complaint.
- **Toni Lockwood and Kristina Jaquith, teachers, Jessica Cruickshank, assistant teacher**, were all nominated by Education Services Coordinator Elaine Lane: Toni, Kristina and Jessica have filled in for the aftercare position as needed when no other coverage was available so that ratio standards were met. They have worked these 10+ hour shifts with no complaint in order to help the program.

EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

- **Jilene Mercier, Spirit Mountain Community Fund secretary**, was nominated by Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson: Jilene's job involves a lot of phone contact with our grant applicants. She consistently works to explain our criteria and works with our applicants on using our Internet-based application system. Sometimes when an inexperienced user doesn't understand the system, she even logs on to the system for them to see where they are at, what they need to do and then walks them through completing their online application. Our applicants consistently comment on her friendliness, patience and support. Jilene deals with up to 90 applicants each quarter, so her ability to communicate effectively and efficiently is critical to her job performance.
- **Kluane Bear, Spirit Mountain Community Fund administrative assistant**, was nominated by Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson: Kluane's job involves a lot of phone contact with our grant applicants. She consistently works to explain our criteria and works with our applicants on using our Internet-based application system. Sometimes when an inexperienced user doesn't understand the system, she even logs on to the system for them to see where they are at, what they need to do and then walks them through completing their online application. Our applicants consistently comment on her friendliness, patience and support. Kluane takes great pride in helping our customers and her work is appreciated by them as well as our staff and board members.

CONGRATULATIONS!