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NETPDTC announces top civilian employees

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) announced Feb. 13 their 2014 Civilian of the Quarter (COQ) for the fourth quarter and overall Civilian of the Year (COY).

James Larkin was selected as COY and Sue Dickerson was selected as the final 2014 COQ.

Larkin works for the Navy Advancement Center (NAC) as a program assistant in the Examination Ordering and Discrepancy Branch. He develops and implements process redesigns and interventions, continuously updating and improving exam administration procedures for the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS), which directly impacts every enlisted Sailor.

“I am honored to be recognized as Civilian of the Year,” said Larkin. “It's a good feeling to know that performing my job and exceeding expectations daily is acknowledged and recognized by leadership and my peers.”

Larkin began his career with NAC in 2010 after retiring as a senior chief petty officer. Recently, while managing Navy-wide advancement examination orders, Larkin identified and tracked advancement exam

shipping errors resulting from a postal policy change. He implemented corrective measures, reducing exam returns by 90 percent and cut packaging error rates by 50 percent, resulting in significantly improved exam processing time.

"Mr. Larkin's efforts to improve exam shipping have been amazing. The results are clear," said Thomas Updike, Navy Enlisted Advancement executive division head. "The Navy is now saving significant money, and delivery of exams to commands has been accelerated - that's a win, win. Mr. Larkin's civilian of the year recognition is well-deserved."

Sue Dickerson also works for NAC in the exam execution division as a mathematical statistician. She develops and performs statistical functions and controls that ensure the accuracy and integrity of NEAS processes and exam development.

"I attribute much of my success to God, my coworkers and the teams that I've worked with," said Dickerson. "I also give much credit to my supervisor; she always finds time to help. Her dedication pushes us to perform better."

Starting with NETPDTC in 2004 as a cooperative education student while simultaneously attending the University of West Florida, Dickerson has been instrumental in current NAC initiatives associated with examination development processes and production modifications.

One key product Dickerson developed was a sophisticated Item Plan Tool, which tracks the number of questions required for each area of rating knowledge put on an advancement exam and how much each question contributes to the overall score on the exam. This projects the number of

questions Fleet Subject Matter Experts (FSMEs) needed to write for each exam cycle. The Item Plan is used to develop 560 individual active duty and reserve advancement exams annually, which are administered to all advancement-eligible Sailors. During a two-week period, FSMEs typically write enough questions for two years' worth of exams for each paygrade (E4-E7) within their rating.

"Sue Dickerson's technical expertise and forward thinking have been essential in the success of revamping the Navy's enlisted advancement exam development processes," said Darlene Barrow, NAC's Statistical Analysis Branch head and Barrow's supervisor. "Sue is a hard-charger with unlimited determination and is known throughout the command as a kind, easy-going person who can be counted on to get the job done."

Capt. Janet Lomax, NETPDTC's commanding officer praised both selectees as integral parts of the Advancement Center team, working tirelessly to ensure Sailors are advanced on time.

"Employees like Mr. Larkin and Ms. Dickerson work diligently behind the scenes, but their efforts produce amazing results," said Lomax. "They are an inspiration to all of us here at NETPDTC."

For more information about the NAC and NEAS, visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Navy-Advancement-Center/213190711299>.

Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center can be found on the NETPDTC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/netc/netpdtc/>.

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/>.

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