

Utah County Employee of the Month, February 2017
Bryce Larsen – Division Director
Health - Environmental

Bryce Larsen came to the Utah County Health Department to take the role of the Environmental Health Director a little over three years ago.

Bryce has always been an advocate of Environmental Health. He has worked in the field of environmental health and public health for his entire career. He started his career at the Salt Lake County Health Department and worked in sanitation and housing and then food protection. While working for Salt Lake County, Bryce was hand-picked by NEHA (National Environmental Health Association) to create a national exam that is essential in obtaining the Environmental Health Scientist license. He was involved in helping create a battery of questions that are still used today in the national certification and licensure exam. He served early and enthusiastically in his career in UEHA (Utah Environmental Health Association) and was elected at one time by his peers to serve as the president of that association.

In 2012, Bryce along with his staff and co-workers in Salt Lake County, were awarded the Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award. This is a national award that is only given to one jurisdiction in the country each year. A jurisdiction is selected and chosen for providing outstanding food protection services to the community.

Bryce is a positive person and always looks for the good in others. In fact, I don't know that I have ever heard Bryce say anything negative about anyone on a personal level. He truly tries to find the good in every situation and looks for the bright side of every story. He wants to have a happy office and enjoys while we decorate our bat cave, celebrate birthdays and become festive for the holidays. Bryce convinced his wife to let him bring in an old Christmas tree to decorate the front office and he has even dressed up for Halloween before. He works very hard to create a positive environment for all of us to work in. He also has a great sense of humor and likes to kid and tease and keep the atmosphere light whenever possible.

When Bryce first came to Environmental Health, we didn't have the greatest reputation for getting time sheets turned in on time and accurately. Bryce, being very competitive, decided to change that reputation and from then on our department had to be first department to turn in time sheets without any mistakes - even with one of the largest divisions at the Health Department.

Bryce is very approachable and co-workers know they can pull up a chair in his office at any time. He takes a personal interest in every employee in EH and demonstrates that interest in many fun ways. The entire staff looks forward to the fall because that is when Bryce brings in produce from his garden and makes his famous fresh peach smoothies and tomato feta sandwiches every year.

Even though Bryce graduated from the University of Utah, he is an avid BYU sports fan. He loves to breakdown the performance of the latest game. He also likes to follow the Utah Jazz. Bryce has two sons and two daughters. His oldest three are married and he still has one son that lives at home. He loves going up to a family cabin in East Canyon and spending time in the mountains with his wife and children. He is also now a very proud grandfather, a role that he cherishes.

As mentioned earlier, Bryce came to Utah County from the Salt Lake County Health Department. For the first three years while working here at Utah County, he continually referred to his previous employer, Salt Lake County, as “we”, as in “well we do it this way” or “we would always see this type of problem”. Well we are happy to report that after three years, Bryce has accepted us and he now refers to Salt Lake County as “them” and is referring to Utah County when he uses the term “we”.

Nominated by Ralph Clegg

Photo courtesy of Mike Stansfield