

Utah County Employee of the Month – November 2013

Melanie Rainey - GIS Analyst I

Information Systems – GIS Development

As the GIS Manager for Utah County, I would like to submit Melanie Rainey's name for the Employee of the month award for the outstanding work she does in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Utah County.

Melanie Rainey has quietly worked as one of the County's foremost GIS expert for over 20 years. She is knowledgeable, yet approachable which makes her a perfect face of the County in customer service. She is also extremely detailed oriented and focused on her work but respectful of the contribution of others which makes her a great team member.

Melanie's kind and professional demeanor have earned her (and Utah County) many fans over the years. One of her fans include Gary Ratcliffe, the Utah County Surveyor, who writes,

*The volume of time she has given to help the Surveying Department produce a product that ultimately serves the private surveying industry and the public in general is so greatly appreciated. In several decades of working with her I have never heard her complain about what I have asked her to do or the time constraints that may have been placed upon her.*

Gary continues,

*Not only has Melanie been a lifesaver over the years in perpetuating and protecting our survey data, she has been a tremendous asset in annexation plat review. The review that she must endure forces her to have a certain level of understanding of surveying math principles as well as State Law. I really appreciate her level of knowledge, experience, and expertise dealing with that understanding. I can't think of anyone that deserves the accolades of being county employee of the month more than her.*

Another fan is Aaron Eager, the Utah County Weed Supervisor. Aaron wrote,

*It is worth mentioning that statewide Utah County has the most dynamic GIS mapping system for noxious weeds and invasive species. This is a direct result of the work and dedication of Melanie Rainey being able to look beyond the standard capture of data and display to critically analyzing what would be the most useful to people in the field along with how do you tell the accurate story in a printed map. Over the last couple of years Utah County, and our CWMA's were able to secure grant funding through multiple sources at levels that far exceed other Counties. Without question our success in securing these funds is directly related to GIS mapping and maps provided by Melanie.*

*In 2013 I was elected to the sit on the Ranking Committee for the UDAF Invasive Species Mitigation grant. The Utah County projects were either auto funded as a multi-year project or*

*were ranked the highest statewide. The grant process is very competitive with more than twice the amount available being requested. From participating in the ranking process this year and reviewing all submissions, it was obvious just how much of an asset Utah County has with Melanie and why we rank at the top. The detail, organization, and dynamic use of color with callouts within the Utah County grant maps were far beyond any other grants request. The quality of the maps allowed the ranking committee to walk through the description of the project and easily identify each description on the map. Additionally, Melanie goes beyond just thinking of the map as a printed reference for the grants, she visits the work site while the project is going and interfaces with the helicopter pilot and others who are using these maps to gather information to help her make better tools for them to be more efficient in the next grant cycle. From all of us within the County Weed Department, CWMA's, and Stage agencies, we would like to submit Melanie Rainey for Employee of the month.*

I cannot help but concur with her many fans. Her exemplary work should be recognized and therefore I nominate her for the Employee of the Month.

Patrick Wawro,

GIS Manager