

Utah County Employee of the Month for November, 2014

Mike Kniephof - Systems Analyst/Programmer III

Information Systems

We nominate Mike Kniephof as Utah County's Employee of the Month for November 2014. Mike has worked for the IT Department for over 15 years.

Mike graduated from BYU with his degree in Information Systems and began working for the County shortly thereafter. Upon his arrival to the County, Mike worked diligently on programming the County's financial systems. He initially programmed the County's general ledger, cash receipts, invoicing, and fixed asset systems and has just recently taken over the programming for the purchase order and travel systems. He continues to take on additional programming responsibilities, including elections and reporting for the Treasurer's Office.

Prior to the County's current financial systems, the County used a mainframe-based system. The old mainframe system required typed commands to perform any functions. The system also did not update budget balances until the end of the month. The current system that Mike programmed is much easier to use and allows users to monitor their budgets and other financial information on a real-time basis. Purchasing a system off the shelf would have been much more costly and would not have allowed the customization that the County currently has access to through Mike's skills and knowledge. We are confident that Mike has saved the County millions of dollars.

Through Mike's expertise and research, he has also found ways to take manual processes and turn them into systematic processes to improve efficiency. Earlier this year our office contacted Mike about several programming requests we did not even think were possible. Less than a week later, Mike had the functionality all programmed. The electronic notification module and bank reconciliation reports he developed have saved our office many hours of time.

Mike always patiently responds to those who call needing assistance. Mike works quickly; he sometimes has programming changes made before you have even ended the conversation letting him know what needs to be changed! Sometimes programming changes are a bit more complicated and take a little more time. When that is the case, Mike is great at communicating throughout the process. He will set up meetings to discuss the progress and even show what he has already coded to make sure he is on the right track. Mike has a great sense of humor and is very easy to work with.

When Mike is not working for the County, he can be found doing something outdoors; most of the time, this is hiking the beautiful mountains in and out of the state. He also plays racquetball and cheers for his Denver sports teams, especially the Avalanche.

For these reasons (and many more), we hope Mike is recognized for his outstanding contributions to our County!

Nominated by the Utah County Clerk-Auditor's Office

The Treasurer's office would like to nominate Mike Kniephof in IT for employee of the month. Mike is the go-to-guy when the Treasurer's office needs a quick sharp brain with the Oracle applications. Whether it is the check writer, cash receipts or tax payment processing, we contact Mike if we can't resolve the problem in our office. Mike asks questions, listens and then says, "I'll see what I can do and get back to you." This does not mean in 2 or 3 days. He gets back to us within hours or minutes with a solution to the problem.

A few examples of Mike's amazing abilities are:

Mike has been very helpful with implementing the new personal property collections system. When we needed to contact a delinquent taxpayer in the past, we would have to type the account information for each account we needed to contact. This was very time consuming, but now all we need to enter is the account number and the payoff date and the system will give us the information we need. This allows us to supply more accurate receipts and tax summary reports to the property owners, which makes collections easier and relationships with the taxpayers more enjoyable.

Here in the Treasurer's office, we update the mailing address for tax notices. This can get long and tedious when a company brings in a large list of parcels all needing the same updated address. Mike has added a button in the system that now copies and pastes the previous address, which saves time and minimizes errors.

He will help with any request from adding characters to the paid by line in tax collection to rewriting programming to make it easier to do legal specific. Mike wants his programs to run smoothly so he encourages feedback. And he does all this while smiling and having fun. We really enjoy working with Mike because he makes our jobs so much easier.

From Bryan Thompson

Utah County Clerk/Auditor

I would like to personally add my comments to the nomination of Mike Kniephof of the IT department as the November 2014 Utah County Employee of the Month. My staff and I really appreciate Mike's approach to the IT projects in our office. He has helped us on projects with the County Financial system, and has planned a big role along with Shad Ruf as our IT Election support.

Mike is very conscientious and detailed oriented in his work. Mike does a great job, and always approaches our tasks and projects with a positive attitude. He is very knowledgeable, and willingly looks at our requests, and then suggests alternative approaches if we are requesting something that is too time consuming or will not work.

He takes pride in his work and does a great job. Mike also is very easy to work with, and through his support of our office, helps us do a better job in responding to the citizens of Utah County.

Photo Courtesy of Mike Stansfield

