

Utah County Employee of the Month for October, 2011  
Pele Lavemai - Control Board Operator  
Utah County Sheriff's Office

Nominated by Mike Coyle:

I am honored to nominate Pelenaise "Pele" Lavemai for Utah County Employee of the month. Pele, has been a Control Board Operator at the Utah County Jail for roughly three years now. Pele is one of the few employees everyone loves to work with and is happy to see at work.

Pele's duties require her to be on top of her game and make sure doors are opened when they should be, and not when they shouldn't. It isn't uncommon for a door to be opened right as a deputy approaches. She seems to have an intuition as to when to open the door.

Pele has a great personality. She greets everyone with a bright smile. Seeing a kind smile in a place that isn't known for happiness goes a long way. She never has a mean or unkind word to say. Even as crews are rotating, everyone is asking for a door, and people are moving through the building she remains calm and peaceful.

When Pele was the CBO working in the Secure Housing Unit (SHU) she was responsible for making sure that the deputy was safe while he was in the housing area. I always knew that she "had my back" and was watching me. That is a comforting to know when, as a deputy, you are alone with the more violent and dangerous of the inmates in the jail.

If Pele ever needs to call for back up after a duress alarm, her call outs are clear and concise. She isn't wasting valuable time on the radio.

I could go on about how awesome Pele is, but I think I have covered the important parts. In short, let me say she is so awesome to work with. She has a way of making a difficult and stressful job easy. She is always there for the staff, and always willing to help.

Nominated by Chris Sainsbury:

Pele would surely object to this nomination but only because she has never been one to want the spotlight. During her time in the jail she has worked in snow control, the SHU and now central control.

Pele has quickly become known as a CBO who takes safety and security seriously while being extremely fast and efficient. Quite often doors will open just before you push the button which means she is alert as to who is walking through the halls. During back-up calls, she is able to open all doors leading to the incident at appropriate times while maintaining order through clear radio traffic.

During her time in the SHU, she made it a point to always make sure the deputies she worked with were safe by watching them while in the dayroom. She also would keep an eye on the inmates and notify the deputy when needed. She has worked alongside many deputies in the SHU and was successful in building a successful team relationship with each of them.

Pele has also gained a positive reputation for her attitude about the job. She always has a smile on her face, never talks negatively about anyone. She is always courteous, never complains (or hides her frustration well) and is always willing to help. Whenever situations arise that require her to take on more responsibility, she is always willing with a positive attitude.

Pele is universally well respected which can be difficult to do in any organization.